Hafa Adai!

Early disbursement of awards for scholars. » PAGE 3

Healthy Restaurant Project makes 'smart choices' easier. » PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 29 | WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2015 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

$9M worth of food stamps in 2014

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The local food stamp program, called Nutrition Assistance Program, issued a total of $9.09 million worth of benefits last year, according to NAP administrator Walter Macaranas.

The amount is divided among Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands. A total of $8.07 million was issued for Saipan, $482,317 went to Tinian, $513,875 went to Rota, and $17,932 was issued for the Northern Islands.

Macaranas

Macaranas also noted that beneficiaries on Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands were able to get bigger amounts, mainly due to increased food stamp funds allocated for the three jurisdictions last year.

"The total level of benefits issued in April 2014 compared to May 2014 increased to about 32 percent on Tinian, 76 percent on Rota, and 160 percent in the Northern Islands," he said.

In a letter dated April 7, 2014, to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura T. Ogumoro, U.S Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Western Region Office regional administrator Jesus Mendoza Jr. wrote that CNMI NAP was approved to use the projected fiscal year 2014 carryover funds to increase the "basis of issuance" on Tinian and Rota by 28 percent while the Northern Islands had a 62-percent increase beginning in May.

See $9M on Page 4

WHEN THE SUN IS GOING DOWN

The silhouette of a young tourist playing along the beachside of Pacific Islands Club Saipan is seen as the sun begins to set. Saipan's sunset is one of the breathtaking views on island that has captured visitors' hearts for years.

JON PEREZ

Heads for DPW, Commerce, DLNR named

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration has appointed new Cabinet members for the Department of Commerce, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Public Works.

Mark Rabauliman has been appointed to head Commerce, Richard Seman has been appointed to head DLNR, and James Ada has been appointed to head Public Works. Rabauliman serves as acting secretary after erstwhile Com-

See HEADS on Page 4

Mafnas: I depart with a deep sense of accomplishment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the federal court's termination last year of the consent decree that resolved prison conditions in the Commonwealth, Ramon C. Mafnas said yesterday he departs as commissioner of the Department of Corrections "with a deep sense of accomplishment."

Mafnas

In a statement, Mafnas said it is a privilege and honor to serve at the pleasure of past and present governors and lieutenant governors as both co-coordinator of the U.S.-CNMI consent decrees since 2006 and DOC commissioner since 2010.

Mafnas extended his gratitude for the privilege and honor to serve Gov.

See MAFNAS on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The oldest living crew member of the battleship USS *Arizona* has died at 100.
» PAGE 15

ASIA
A new study says cats and foxes are behind Australia's alarming extinctions.
» PAGE 16

WORLD
At least 29 migrants die from hypothermia while crossing the Mediterranean.
» PAGE 17

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

CUC has over $8M in cash but is barred from using it

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has over $8 million in deposits that are strictly off limits and cannot be used for other purposes. However, CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said they'd prefer to use the money if the law would allow it.

According to CUC rate consultant Dan V. Jackson of economist.com, the over $8 million represents the deposit from new customers when they sign up for CUC's services.

"That is restricted money and CUC is not allowed to use that for any other purposes. You can't take deposits that customers make in good faith and when they disconnect they are going to get it back and what you are doing is you're creating another obligation when they disconnect their services," Jackson said.

The subject and the use of the funds came up during the meeting last week with the 19th Legislature's Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication

See CUC on Page 4

MVA board yet to act on Tenorio's courtesy resignation

The board of directors of the Marianas Visitors Authority has yet to decide on the courtesy resignation of MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

According to MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, Tenorio "continues to remain in his current capacity as the managing director of MVA."

"Although the MVA board of directors received his courtesy resignation on Jan. 9, 2015, no official action has yet been taken," Aldan-Pierce said.

Tenorio confirmed that he submitted his courtesy resignation last month.

"As the MVA board of directors is the hiring authority for the MVA managing director position, I submitted by courtesy resignation to the MVA board chair on Jan. 9, 2015, of which a copy was furnished to the administration," Tenorio, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, said.

The office of Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres earlier clarified that the post of MVA managing director is a board position that serves at the board's pleasure. Thus it will be up to the board to decide whether Tenorio keeps his post or not.

The current administration is currently in the process of accepting courtesy resignations of present Cabinet positions, as well as appointing new Cabinet members. ***(Joel D. Pinaroc)***

IN DISCHARGING 2ND ORDER TO SHOW-CAUSE

Judge: Failure to pay Bar dues does not implicate lawyer's professional character

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has discharged her second order directing lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff to explain why he should not be suspended from the practice of law in federal court for failing to pay CNMI Bar dues.

In an order on Monday, Manglona ruled that Woodruff should not be disciplined in federal court for his failure to pay Commonwealth Bar dues.

Manglona noted that "disbarment by federal courts does not automatically flow from disbarment by state courts."

The judge said Woodruff's short-term failure to pay Bar dues does not by itself raise the sort of grave concern about his conduct that federal courts normally consider for reciprocal discipline.

"Failure to pay Bar dues does not implicate Woodruff's professional character, at least not in the limited circumstances present here," Manglona said.

Last Oct. 9, 2014, Manglona directed Woodruff to explain why he should not be suspended from the practice of law in federal court and otherwise discipline him for failure to comply with the court's orders.

In the show-cause order, Manglona said a review of the docket shows that for the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September 2014, Woodruff has not notified the court of the progress of his disciplinary matter in CNMI courts.

Furthermore, the judge said it has come to her attention that on Aug. 9, 2013, Woodruff was suspended from the practice of law in CNMI courts for failure to pay his 2013 Bar membership fees.

On Aug. 8, 2013, Manglona required Woodruff within the last five days of each month to notify the court, in writing, of the progress of his disciplinary matter in the Commonwealth courts.

In that Aug. 8, order, the judge said any failure to comply with the order may subject Woodruff to fines for civil contempt.

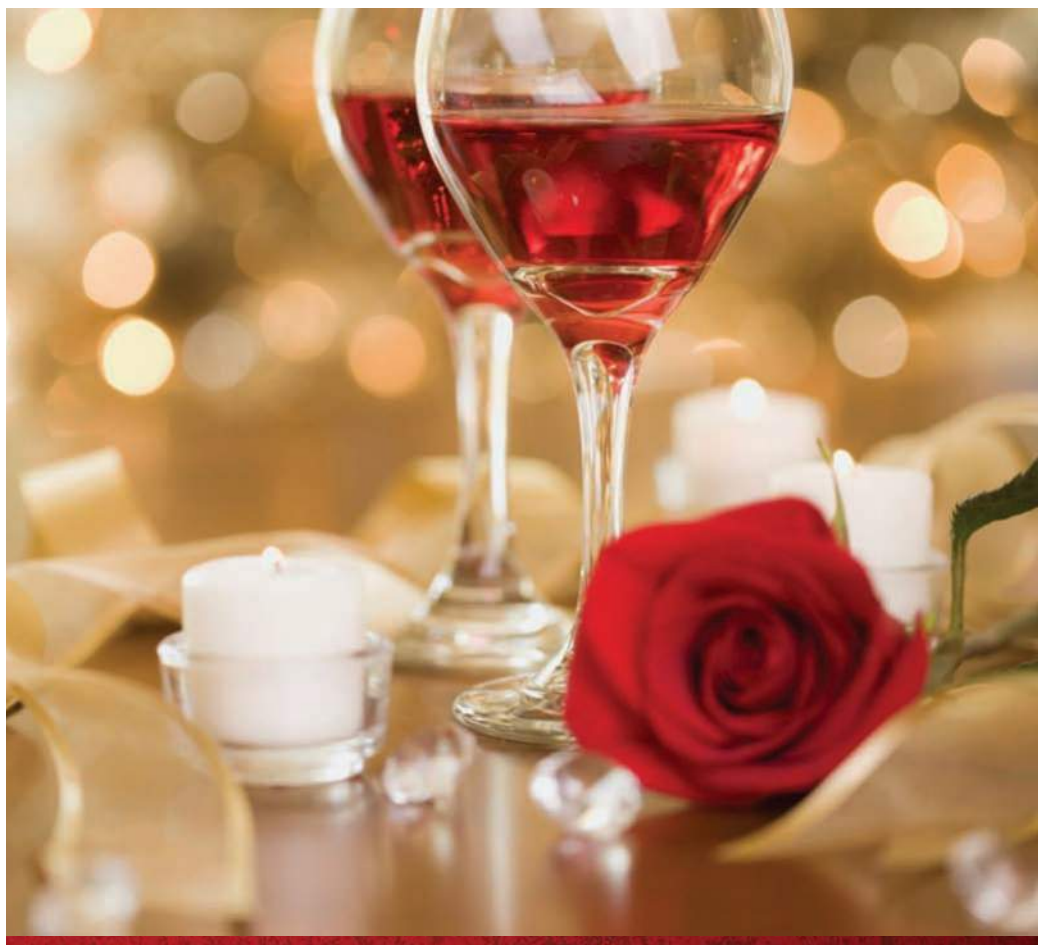
On Oct. 8, 2013, Manglona issued a show-cause order why Woodruff should not be held in civil contempt for failure to submit progress reports for August and September 2013.

After a show-cause hearing on Oct. 11, 2013, Manglona excused Woodruff's noncompliance but put him on notice "that any further disobedience or resistance to the court's Aug. 3 order may subject him to prosecution for criminal contempt as well as disciplinary action under the court's local rules."

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Woodruff's disbarment in June 2013 for 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Woodruff is appealing the matter.

In October 2013, Wiseman found Woodruff in contempt of court for not complying with the mandate of Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and of the disbarment order.

Woodruff was sentenced to five days in prison but it was suspended on the condition that he comply with the mandates. In December 2013, Wiseman ordered him to spend only three days in jail instead of five because he did submit something that partially complied with the court orders.



Spend your evening with that special person at our Double Eagle Restaurant and enjoy our scenic view as we prepare that special dinner for that special someone on this special night.

Spoil your sweetheart with our (5) course meal that starts off with our appetizer followed by salad then seafood soup that will have you looking forward for the main entrée and finished off with a chocolate treat for dessert. Our complimentary glass of champagne or wine and a beautiful red rose for the beautiful lady should make for a memorable evening.

$80.00 per couple

Coral Ocean Golf Resort
For Reservation call (670) 288-8892 ext. 24
Major Credit Card Accepted

PHONE STORE
NEW LOCATION
We are now located in San Antonio, same building as TOHA Supermarket
10-30% OFF
on Selected Items
Many selections of Cellphone / IPAD / Tablet Accessories
Repair Service Available
Business Hours: 10:00AM – 8:00PM Monday – Saturday
12:30PM – 5:00PM Sundays • Call us at 234-6666

NEW PARADISE FLORIST
Valentine's Day
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
OPTION A: 6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a basket
OPTION B: 6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Basket
OPTION C: 1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in Basket
We also have: Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit &Wine Basket Gift Basket Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)
To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.
New Paradise Florist
MIDDLE ROAD

Early disbursement of awards for scholars

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both the CNMI Scholarship Office and the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance have started disseminating the first batch of checks to beneficiaries.

For SHEFA, all checks for the first batch are either ready for pick up at their office or through the mail.

According to SHEFA yesterday, it had started submitting check requests to the Department of Finance for processing and that the next batch of scholars need to submit their supporting documents for review and to facilitate the next release of checks.

The CNMI Scholarship Office also sent out emails to its first batch of awardees for the distribution of checks today, Wednesday. Students under the first batch can visit the Northern Marianas College cashier's office with their ID cards after 10am today, Wednesday.

SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office is reminding students under their programs to submit supporting documents before the deadline, Feb. 28.

For more information on required documents to be submitted, call SHEFA at 233-5995 or email contact@saipanshefa.net.

For more information on the CNMI Scholarship Office, call the office at 664-4150 or email them at awards@cnmischolarship.net.

Pretrial release of visa fraud suspect revoked

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has revoked the pretrial release of Evengelyn E.C. Jones, who has a pending criminal case and failed to appear at a hearing and for drug testing.

Manglona found that the series of failures to appear—for drug testing, for substance abuse treatment, and for a court hearing—show that no combination of conditions can assure Jones' appearance.

In an order on Friday, Manglona also determined that the court can't rely on Jones to abide by any conditions set.

Jones was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Manglona noted that the court summons being left with a resident at Jones' last known address is enough to establish probable cause that she knew she had been summoned to appear in court on Jan. 14, 2014.

Manglona found clear and convincing evidence that Jones violated two special conditions of release as alleged in the U.S. Probation Office's petition for revocation and as admitted by Jones.

Moreover, the judge said, it appears that Jones may have violated another standard condition of pretrial release: to advise the court or her supervising officer in writing before changing her residence.

Last Jan. 30, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy remanded Jones to the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending a pretrial release violation hearing.

Kennedy said there is a serious risk that Jones will not appear in court and that no reasonable condition or combination of conditions of release will assure that she will not flee.

U.S. Deputy Marshal Don Hall served Jones with the arrest warrant Manglona issued on Jan. 20 last Jan. 29. Manglona issued the warrant after Jones did not show up at the revocation hearing.

Jones was first arrested on an indictment charging her with one count of visa fraud and was released last Nov. 24 on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

U.S. Probation officer Gregory Arriola then filed a petition for revocation of her pre-trial release after she failed to appear for random drug tests on Dec. 16, 18, 20, and 30, 2014.

At the Jan. 20 revocation hearing, Jones did not show up in court.

Attorney David Banes, court-appointed counsel for Jones, told the court that since his appointment last Jan. 9, he has made many attempts to contact his client without success.

This prompted Manglona to order the arrest of Jones.

The revocation hearing was held last Feb. 3.

At the revocation hearing, Jones, through counsel Banes, admitted to the violations alleged in the petition to revoke the pretrial release.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton announced that it wished to present evidence that Jones had committed a new crime by knowingly failing to appear in court last Jan. 20 when summoned to do so.

Naughton said a marshal served the summons on Jeff Magofna at Jones' last residence, and that Magofna stated he would give the summons to Jones. Banes disclosed, though, that Jones had broken up with Magofna before Jan. 1and had gone to live with her sister.

Naughton argued that the fact that Jones was arrested at the residence where the summons was left is evidence that she lived there and would have known about the summons.

Banes responded that sometime after Jan. 14 and before Jan. 30, Jones had made up with Magofna and returned to that residence.

Citing an exchange of e-mails between Banes and Hall, Manglona said it appears that Jones had agreed to surrender herself at the courthouse by 9am on Jan. 30, and failed to do so because she was trying to make arrangements for her two children to be looked after.

Manglona said Banes e-mailed Hall that Jones would turn herself in at 5pm, but Hall had already gone to arrest her at 12:30pm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fire chief and co-defendants settle Saint Michael's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services fire chief Thomas M. Manglona and other co-defendants in a lawsuit filed by the owner of private ambulance company Saint Michael's Medical Response have reached a settlement deal.

At a settlement conference held in federal court on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy stated that the parties in August Healthcare Group LLC's lawsuit have reached a settlement.

According to the minutes of the conference, attorney Braddock Huesman, counsel for August Healthcare Group LLC that owns Saint Michael's Medical Response, agreed with Kennedy that they have reached a settlement and went over the terms of their deal.

Assistant attorney general Charles Brasington, counsel for Thomas Manglona, and attorney Joaquin Torres, counsel for defendants Joaquin Manglona and Marianas Global Ventures LLC, agreed with Huesman's representation of the parties' settlement terms.

Marianas Global Ventures owns Priority Care.

Huesman informed the court that a settlement agreement would be prepared and filed by Feb. 20, 2015.

August Healthcare Group filed the lawsuit in 2012. The company sued cousins Thomas and Joaquin C. Manglona, August Healthcare, and several others for allegedly conspiring to destroy the company's business and help another then-newly formed ambulance company, Priority Care.

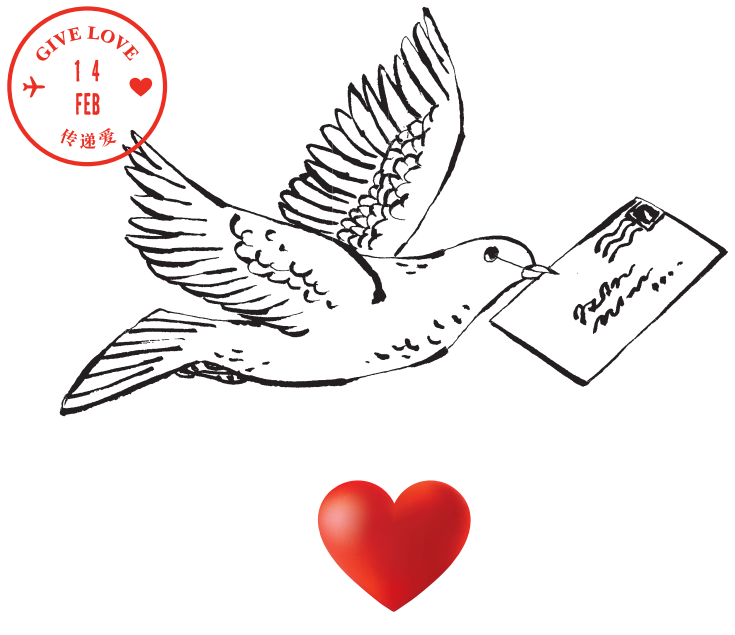
Joaquin Manglona is one of the members of Priority Care.

Since 2012, several motions have been filed that resulted in August Healthcare's filing of an amended complaint a third time. The trial was supposed to start on June 22, 2015.

In his reply to the lawsuit, Thomas Manglona, through counsel Brasington, denied the allegations. He also asserted, among other things, that he is entitled to qualified immunity.

In Joaquin Manglona's and Marianas Global Ventures LLC's reply to the complaint, attorney Torres denied the allegations and asked the court to rule in their favor.

HOUSE SESSION JOEL D. PINAROC
Members of the House of Representatives review documents during a session held Monday on Capital Hill.



T
GALLERIA
DFS

Happy Valentines Day From T Galleria

This Valentines Day, get your love something they really want.

T Galleria has the largest assortment of gift ideas, from top trending beauty and fashion items, to luxury watches and jewelry that can be treasured forever.

Shop now to get your chance at a $1,000 shopping spree and other prizes.*

Receive a raffle entry form with every $30 purchase. Raffle entries can be received from Feb 7-14th.*

* **Proof of CNMI Residency Required.**

The Traveler's Luxury Department Store

BEACH RD, SAIPAN, MP 96950,
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TGALLERIA.COM

2 more Saturdays for cultural festival OK'd

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority voted to put in an additional $5,000 in funds for this year's International Festival of Cultures, with the goal of making it an event of six Saturdays starting around mid-August, at their board meeting last Friday.

According to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, the Japanese Marianas Tourism Club expressed interest in having their guests visit the festival.

Adding two weeks to the festival was also discussed with vendors and community stakeholders, who also gave their approval, it was gathered.

Tenorio

For the two weeks, the additional cost of $5,000 was presented to the MVA's Japanese tourism ad-hoc committee, who voted unanimously "to help fund, support, and augment the four weeks" and extend the festival, according to marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The festival of cultures was introduced to the island last year in September as one of MVA's new signature events. Its goal was to showcase the unique and diverse cultures of the islands for both visitors and the local community, and was compared to other popular festivals like the annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival held every May.

FOA presents Valentine's Day treat

Friends of the Arts presents three performances of its special annual Valentine's Day program *Let's Fall in Love Again* on Feb. 12, 14, and 15 at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

The third program of its 2015 season, *Let's Fall in Love Again* is a musical revue that consists of songs taken from different Broadway shows: *Cabaret, Cinderella, Grease, Color Purple, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Jersey Boys, Love Never Dies, Les Miserables, The Little Mermaid, Hair Spray, The Last Five Years, The Addams Family, Jekyll and Hyde, Wonderland, Promises Promises*, and others.

The program on Valentines Day, Feb. 14, will be a reserved table Dinner-Theater program for all attendees, offering the fabulous PIC buffet included in the price of the ticket: $40 for adults, $35 for FOA members, $32 for students above 11 years of age, and $20 for students and children 4-11 years of age. Season ticket holders and advertisers will pay $24 for the meal only.

On the Feb. 13 and 15 shows, guests may have the option of purchasing the buffet at the $24 price for adults and students above 11 years in age and $12 for students and children 4-11 years of age, with the ticket cost $15 for adults, $12 for FOA members, $8 for students and children above 4 years of age.

The door will be open and the PIC buffet will be available for all performances at 6:30pm with the program beginning at 7:30pm. For those attending the Dinner-Theater performance on Feb. 14, tables may be reserved on a first-come basis. Reservations for this evening are a commitment and you will be expected to pay the full amount even if you fail to attend. Reservations can be made by email to flgibson@yahoo.com or by telephone to 287-7476.

Tickets are available FOA board members and performers. Tickets will also be sold at the door on a space available basis. ***(FOA)***

NMHC eyes renovating foreclosed units for use of homeless

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will be looking into utilizing its Emergency Solutions Grant to rehabilitate foreclosed units that Karidat Social Services can assign to homeless people.

NMHC board member Ignacio Perez said that NMHC has some foreclosed properties and asked NMHC deputy corporate director Jeannie Mafnas if it was possible to utilize the ESG funds for rehabilitating them.

According to Mafnas, they can't use the ESG to do that but said that NMHC will look into doing that.

Perez said in last week's board meeting that by utilizing the ESG fund for families, they can rehabilitate these properties and let Karidat assign them to their clients, specifically the homeless.

"You're still utilizing the ESG funds in the same manner as it was intended for, although this way you're rehabbing the property and assigning them," Perez said.

Mafnas said the ESG was formally known as an Emergency Shelter Grant and that kind of activity, rehabilitation, would've been allowed but when it transitioned into the Emergency Solutions Grant, the eligible activities now is to assist families with financial assistance so they don't become homeless.

ESG provides over $60,000 in funding to individuals being served under the ESG Program that was developed back in 2011. It offers financial assistance to people who are at risk of being homeless or are literally homeless.

The ESG then provides 7.5 percent of funding for administrative cost between NMHC and Karidat.

NMHC sets the criteria rules and executes a contract every year with Karidat and Karidat takes control of the funds and provides the assistance to the homeless.

$9M

From Page 1

A reevaluation was later made whether these increases would continue during the fiscal year 2015 negotiations.

"The result of the negotiations in July 15 to 16 concluded the increases would continue in fiscal year 2015," Macaranas said.

The local food stamp program is under the umbrella of the DCCA.

Subsequently, on Dec. 5, 2014, USDA-FNS allowed DCCA to increase the basis of issuance for Saipan between 10 and 16 percent. DCCA opted to take the 16 percent, which then took effect on Jan. 1, 2015, Macaranas said.

One food stamp beneficiary told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the increase is of great use for his family, which consists of six members.

Pilot program

Macaranas said that Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 has a provision for a CNMI SNAP Pilot Program requiring the USDA secretary to conduct a two-year feasibility study to assess the capabilities of the CNMI to operate the SNAP program in a similar manner as the program is operated in the United States or alternate models of SNAP operation and benefit delivery that best meet the nutrition assistance needs of the CNMI.

"If the secretary determines that a pilot program is feasible, the secretary shall establish a pilot program for the CNMI to operate the SNAP program or SNAP-like models in the same manner. The secretary may use to establish and carry out the pilot program in federal costs in providing technical assistance, authorizing and monitoring retail food stores, and assessing pilot operations of not more than $13.5 million in fiscal year 2016 and $8.5 million for each of fiscal year 2017 and 2018," he said.

In related news, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said that President Barrack Obama's budget for fiscal year 2016 includes the annual $12.148 million in funds for NAP.

"This is the increased annual amount I secured beginning in 2009. Additionally, through my work on the Agriculture Committee, $13.5 million from the national SNAP was authorized to be used for benefits in the NMI in fiscal year 2016 by the Agricultural Act of 2014," Sablan said.

So altogether CNMI can expect almost $26 million available for NMI food stamps during the fiscal year beginning on Oct. 1.

"We are working with the DOA here in Washington, D.C. to make sure that money can be used promptly, once appropriated by Congress, to raise benefits for people in the NMI who need help feeding their families," Sablan said.

MAFNAS

From Page 1

Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and the people of the Commonwealth.

"It has always been my desire to promote professional standards, performance and efficiency in all things that I am assigned to carry out and or oversee," he said.

The Inos-Torres administration has accepted Mafnas' resignation as DOC chief.

Mafnas thanked the officers and staff at Corrections for their "service, dedication, and loyalty" to the department and to the people of the CNMI.

"It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that the health, nutrition, safety, and security of all inmates and detainees and officers and staff meet national standards in providing housing, care, discipline, training, and treatment that meet constitutional standards," he said.

On the termination of consent decree in May 2014, Mafnas said they give credit to DOC officers and staff and recognized their contributions for taking on the responsibility in overcoming many challenges to facilitate and achieve compliance of both federal and Commonwealth correctional standards and requirements.

He said CNMI officials must not rest at this juncture and relax the diligence and attention to duty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona terminated the 15-year-old consent decree between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The U.S. government sued the CNMI in 1999 over the deplorable conditions of jail facilities. DOJ and the CNMI then entered into a consent decree.

The aims of the consent decree was to improve the conditions of the CNMI's detention institutions that were deemed to violate the civil rights of those detained at the facilities, and to safeguard against future violations.

Mafnas said more than ever, the joint efforts and mustering of the multitude of material and fiscal assets and human resources require tremendous leadership and cooperation between the administration, the Legislature, and the Judiciary to safeguard the standards of compliance at DOC so that the institution continues to meet or exceed the American Correctional Association requirements.

Mafnas quoted Manglona in describing the efforts and outcomes in the consent decree as "putting the structure in place" necessary to support and carry out the duties and responsibilities of DOC.

"I depart with a deep sense of accomplishment, peace of mind, and relief from such complex and intricate responsibility, knowing that we—my officers and I—have done well for the good of our people and Commonwealth," he added.

During the administration of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial, Mafnas served as DOC and Department of Public Safety commissioner.

When more than 130 DPS employees petitioned for Mafnas' removal, Fitial removed him as DPS commissioner but retained his post as DOC commissioner in 2012.

HEADS

From Page 1

merce secretary and now Sen. Sixto Igisomar ran and won a Senate seat, while Seman lost his seat in the House of Representatives in last year's general elections. Ada is the president of the CNMI Republican Party.

Also appointed was Ivan Blanco as public information officer. He has been serving in an acting capacity since former press secretary Angel Demapan ran and won a House seat in Precinct 1.

The appointments will be subject to Senate confirmation, except for the PIO post.

More appointments are expected to be made in the coming days.

The government earlier accepted the courtesy resignation of Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas and DPW Secretary Martin C. Sablan.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier said the nominations of Seman and Rabauliman have been made but there is still no definite date as to when the rest of the new Cabinet would finally shape up.

"There are some Cabinet members who will stay and there are some Cabinet members who would be shifting to other responsibilities," Torres had said.

It was also reported that the makeup of the new Cabinet would be based on the transition report of Committee on Transition chair Gregorio M. Camacho.

Appointees for the Department of Finance, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Labor, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, Office of Management and Budget, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Carolinian Affairs Office, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, and Women's Affairs Office have yet to be announced.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier requested his Cabinet to submit courtesy resignations after his and Torres' victory in the runoff election in December.

CUC

From Page 2

joint committee meeting.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) raised the issue with CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, asking how much security deposits does CUC have and if they were allowed to use it.

Fletcher said they have somewhere between $8 million and $10 million and it is in restricted accounts. He said CUC does not use that money and is legally prohibited from using it.

One of the primary purposes of security deposits is to provide security on an account after a customer's service is terminated and their last billing is generated.

Given the normal collection cycle for CUC, small corporations hold many commercial accounts with few assets. Once those corporations cease doing business, it is nearly impossible to collect outstanding amounts owed to CUC if security deposits were used.

This might take away a source that CUC depends on to collect, and this will in turn increase CUC's bad debt levels, which could potentially lead to higher base rates for all customers.

Sablan said that they do that in Guam.

"We use that money. No restriction and what we keep in reserve is normally the amount that goes out. I'd prefer that we use that if the law could allow us, rather than involve more expenses," he said.

Request for release of fugitive businessman denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied Korean businessman Jae Boong Kim's bid to be released pending his appeal of the court's order for his extraditability. Kim has been in federal custody for more than 20 months now.

In an order Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that Kim has not made a strong showing of success on the merits or demonstrated that his case is unique in ways that overcome the presumption against release of an extradite pending appeal.

"Although the appeal process is somewhat delayed by the stay of the briefing schedule, at this point the delay is not so prolonged as to be unusual. Special circumstances calling for release do not presently exist," Manglona said.

The judge pointed out that Kim has not demonstrated that having to defend two extradition cases simultaneously is unique.

Manglona said Kim has not explained how this circumstance, even if unique, has any bearing on whether he should be released pending appeal.

Kim, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, maintained that the legal proceedings in this matter have been extraordinarily protracted, and that the delay cannot be attributed to him.

Manglona said it is unnecessary for any of the parties, or for the court, to engage in finger-pointing about who is responsible for the length of the extradition and habeas proceedings.

"Given the number of issues raised and the volume of evidence presented in the extradition cases, the time it took to resolve them is expectable," Manglona said.

Kim has been in federal custody since his arrest on May 17, 2013, on a fugitive warrant to face possible extradition to the Republic of Korea in two criminal actions.

In October and November 2013, Manglona issued a certification of extraditability for Kim in connection with the two cases.

Federal agents arrested Kim on Saipan based on two outstanding arrest warrants in South Korea for allegedly defrauding two women of about 530.8 million won ($477,632) and defrauding some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs in Guam.

Kim then applied for the writ of habeas corpus. The court denied the petition. He appealed the denial.

In his appeal, Kim applied for a stay of extradition pending appeal in May 2014. The Ninth Circuit granted the request.

In November 2014, Kim moved the Ninth Circuit for release pending appeal. The Ninth Circuit denied the motion, but allowed him to present the motion in the district court.

In his motion, Kim asserted that he is entitled to release because his continued detention violates a federal statute that limits the period during which he may be detained to two months and special circumstances.

Heavier penalties eyed for crimes vs tourists

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to impose more severe penalties for crimes that occur in close proximity to tourist and recreational sites.

House Bill 19-6 aims to establish higher mandatory sentences for crimes that occur within 1,000 feet of these sites.

The bill noted that crimes against tourists and local visitors alike in tourist attractions such as beaches, hotels, and golf resorts are increasing.

"Existing statutes regarding theft and robbery are not serving to deter violent crimes at tourist and recreation sites. Presently, there are no minimum mandatory penalties for crimes involving tourists or locals who are particularly vulnerable to criminals in remote and unpopulated areas far from police or security guards and close to escape routes in the jungle," it said.

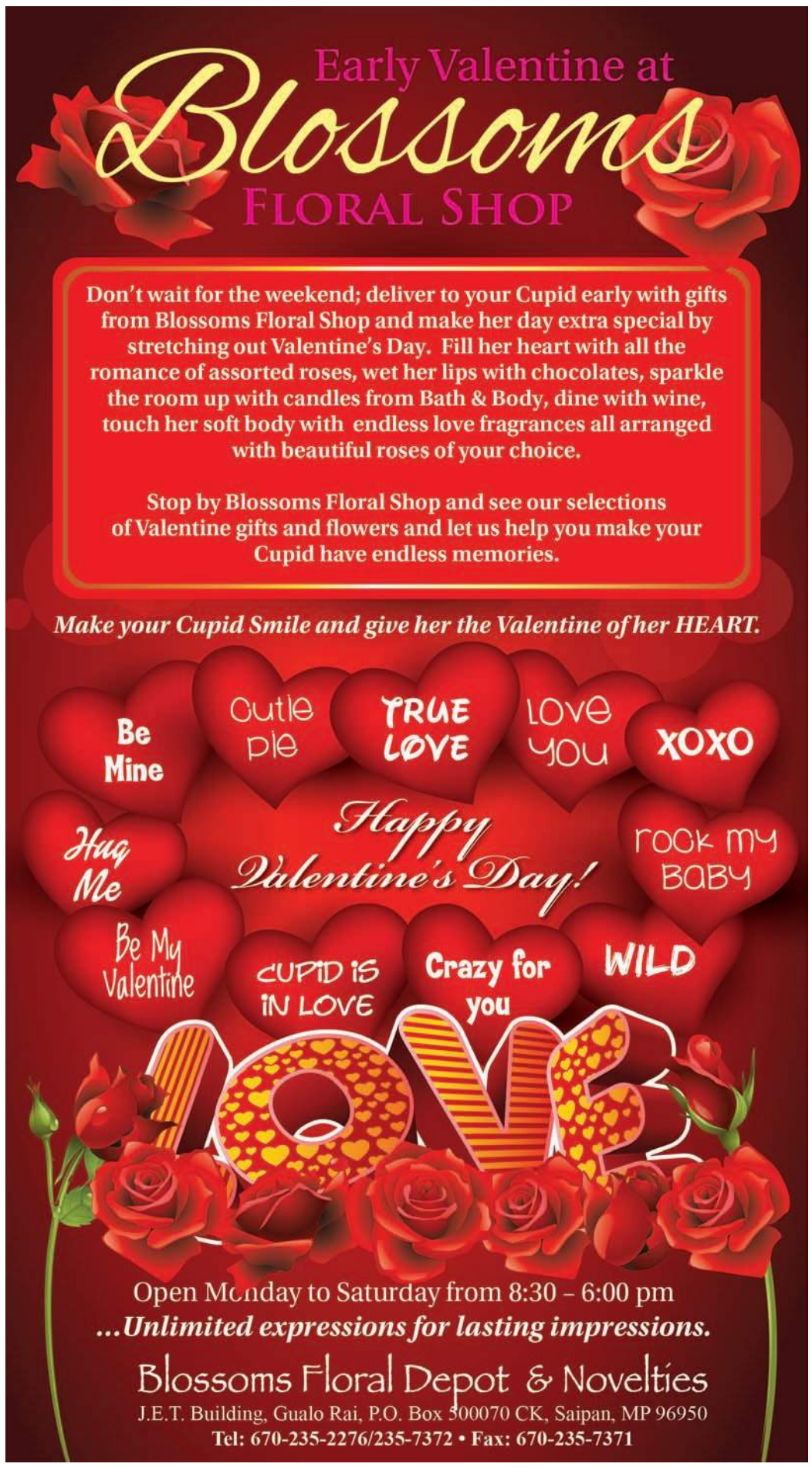
The bill said in order to enforce this provision in a fair and reasonable manner and avoid claims of vagueness, areas that are affected must be clearly identified and that "the public and law enforcement alike must be placed on adequate notice."

"Accordingly, this provision shall mandate the erection of clear markers or boundaries such as signage that indicates that an individual is in a regulated area," the bill said.

The bill further said "all areas regulated herein must be clearly identified to provide reasonable and adequate public notice through the use of clear markers or boundaries, signage, or other means that indicate that an individual is in a regulated area and the extent of the one thousand feet zone of applicability."

BW CAR RENTAL
NEW LOCATION
in GARAPAN, SUNLEADER BLDG.
Special Rate $100.00 for 3 days.
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service
287-2727
Mon. - Sun. • 9AM-9PM

VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL DINNER
$60 per person ($120 per couple)
Including: Steak Course & Bottomless Wine
VALENTINE'S DAY HOTEL STAY
with SPECIAL DINNER $300 per couple
Including: Steak Course & Bottomless Wine, Room w/
Brunch for a couple, Wine & Chocolate in the room
Limited Rooms Available
$500 per couple for VIP Room
(Only One Room Available)
SAT. 14TH FEB.
VALENTINES DAY
Dinner will be at Pool Side starting 18:00. For hotel room reservation,
credit card information must be provided as confirmation.
100% cancellation charge will be applied if cancelled after confirmation.
Hotel reservation will be First Come, First Serve basis.
Some conditions will be applied. For more information,
Please call us at (670) 236-8888 or email us at rsrvn@laolaobay.com
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT


Early Valentine at
Blossoms
FLORAL SHOP
Don't wait for the weekend; deliver to your Cupid early with gifts from Blossoms Floral Shop and make her day extra special by stretching out Valentine's Day. Fill her heart with all the romance of assorted roses, wet her lips with chocolates, sparkle the room up with candles from Bath & Body, dine with wine, touch her soft body with endless love fragrances all arranged with beautiful roses of your choice.
Stop by Blossoms Floral Shop and see our selections of Valentine gifts and flowers and let us help you make your Cupid have endless memories.
Make your Cupid Smile and give her the Valentine of her HEART.
Be Mine
Cutie Pie
TRUE LOVE
Love You
XOXO
Hug Me
Happy Valentine's Day!
Rock My Baby
Be My Valentine
CUPID IS IN LOVE
Crazy for you
WILD
LOVE
Open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 – 6:00 pm
...Unlimited expressions for lasting impressions.
Blossoms Floral Depot & Novelties
J.E.T. Building, Gualo Rai, P.O. Box 500070 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-235-2276/235-7372 • Fax: 670-235-7371

Ideas on how to celebrate Valentine's Day this year

Couples, lovers, and the single ones—prepare. Cupid is on the prowl. But don't worry. The island's resorts and flower shops are prepared to help make your Valentine's Day a colorful, unique, and relaxing one with the gift packages and dinner deals they have to offer.

Pacific Islands Club
Turn your heart to the ocean, and open your tummy to the wine, steak, and lobster at the Seaside Grill this Valentine's Day. Seaside Grill is known for its excellent and friendly service, classic food, good wine, and a romantic view of the ocean to make your night a lovely and soothing one. Their six-course Valentine's Day dinner from 6pm to 9:30pm costs $80 per person. The dinner includes salmon and scallop crudo with caviar, filet mignon, and lobster tail thermidor, and comes with complimentary wine.

Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort
One of Saipan's premier resorts has its doors open for love this Valentine's Day. The resort has a "Valentine's Day Hotel Stay" package with special dinner for $300 per couple. This "staycation" also comes with brunch, and wine and chocolate in rooms. The resort also offers a Valentine's Day special dinner for $60 per person, $120 per couple, for a steak course and bottomless wine. Dinner starts poolside at 6pm.

Hyatt Regency Saipan
Intimacy, atmosphere, and fine dining are some of the top ingredients for a special Valentine's Day experience. Find these essentials at the Hyatt Regency and Spa this weekend. Hyatt's beach or gazebo private dinners are set amidst their beautiful garden or beach side, for a cozy and intimate mood. Only six slots are available on the 13 and 14, so call now. Hyatt also features the top notch i Sagua Spa, where guest may call on their spa experts for tailored treatment.

Coral Ocean Golf Resort
Some of the island's best food is on the table at Double Eagle Restaurant of the Coral Ocean Golf Resort this Valentine's Day. Their four-course meal features a scenic view and comes with appetizer, salad, seafood soup, and main entrée, topped with a chocolate treat for dessert. Dinner comes with complimentary champagne or house wine, a red rose for the ladies, and costs $80 per couple.

Jojo's Beauty Salon and Spa
Relax, renew, and rejuvenate with Jojo's Beauty Salon and Spa's sweetheart package. Couples can opt for their $50 manicure, pedicure, and haircut deal; or their $75 foot spa, manicure, and haircut. Other promotions range from haircut and styling, to foot spa and facials starting at $20 to $100.

New Paradise Florist
Everyone likes to have options, and New Paradise Florist has several ready for you. Call or stop by their store on Middle Road, across the Shell gas station for their three great flower basket deals, plus some more. Package A is six full bloom roses with mini-roses; package B is six roses, stuffed toys, chocolate, balloon and a Happy Valentine's Day pick; while package C, like B, has toys, chocolate, balloon and a Happy Valentine's Day pick but with double the roses. Call 233-9875.

Blossoms Floral and Depot and Novelties
"Unlimited expressions for lasting impressions," reads Blossoms Floral Shop's logo. This is the perfect mantra for the eager boy, girl, man, or woman looking to satisfy their favorite other this Valentine's Day. Blossoms Floral sells assorted roses, chocolates, Bath and Body candles, wine, and love fragrances—ingredients for a romantic and seductive evening.

Make it a date at Serenity Salon and Spa

Valentine's Day is celebrated in pairs. That's why Serenity Salon and Spa—for the first time—is offering a special "Friends and Lover's Day" package at $50 per person, to make your special day come hand-in-hand with that special someone.

While you can treat that special loved one to a manicure, pedicure, or foot, hand and back massage, among others—why not join in too? Make it a date, and save the date at Serenity Salon and Spa.

Each customer gets to choose from two of the salon's signature services, from foot to full-body massage, face cleansing, make up and haircuts, among others.

"We want our couples to relax and enjoy Valentine's Day together," Serenity Salon's Pinky Antonino said.

Patrons can also bring a bottle of wine if they want, she said, adding that the salon will provide appetizers and refreshments.

But it's not just lovers, she said. The new package is targeted to friends too, who may want to make Valentine's Day a time to unwind, catch up, and relax.

The salon also offers other packages for two, like their "Renew," "Duel Delight" or "Mini Spa Day" packages.

The "Renew" Package is $200 and every single dollar is worth it. Both patrons get the full Serenity experience with a body scrub with honey body polish, Serenity's signature massage, an oxygen facial, hair spa treatment, and a pedicure. The "Duel Delight" package, for $150, includes Serenity's signature facial with diamond peel, their signature massage, and head and scalp treatment with head massage. And the "Mini Spa Day," for $100, comes with a foot spa with pedicure, a nail art or gel polish manicure, and hair spa treatment.

Serenity's staff are so good at what they do they tag their names behind every signature treatment. Antonino said all the staff are well-trained in their respective skills and expertise.

Try "Serenity's signature nail art by Michelle," or their blow dry by Mercy, or massage by Angie.

Antonino and the Serenity's staff understand the toll of work, work, and more work. "So, why don't you pamper yourself," she said.

We know how hard our loved ones work. So why not treat them to the friendly, accommodating and skilled staff of Serenity Salon and Spa for their well-deserved rest and relaxation.

The salon is open from 10am to 7:30pm. Make sure to call ahead for an appointment so that a therapist or hair stylist will be made ready for you.

Your one-stop shop for Valentine's Day

Dollar Days Wholesale florist Dominic Jacob boasts of their shop being the one-stop shop for all the flowers, teddy bears, chocolates, and souvenirs you'll need to make your special someone's heart flutter.

Dollar Days' flower selection is replete with roses, lilies, carnation, gerbera, and other varieties, he said. And their Valentine's Day packages are filled with chocolates, chocolate chips, cookies, and other goodies, he added.

The attractive packages come with souvenirs like mugs—all wrapped up in elegant Valentine décor and ribbons, designed by Jacob himself and other Dollar Days staff.

For those with soft hearts for fluffy animals, the shop sells huggable Valentine teddy bears. They also have potted lucky bamboo—for those looking to perfect their feng shui this coming Saturday.

Classical and fresh flower arrangements are available on request. Latex or mylar balloons, single stemmed roses to nine-piece bouquets, or flower vases are also available.

Prices for flower and basket arrangements start at $25 up. Smaller arrangements with artificial flowers are also available at $15 up.

So with these various Valentine's Day gift to choose from, why not stock up on your heart-fluttering options at Dollar Days Wholesale? Make that special man or woman feel their heart bloom.

At Dollar Days Flower's & Gifts
you´ll find everything you need to make this Valentine´s Day Special!
Red Hot
Honey Bouquet
Ecuadorian Rose
Sweet Heart
Red Amazed
Valentine´s Teddy Bear
You´ll be Mine
SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART
This box of chocolate has a less tradidional shape, and is filled with delicious Dove chocolate hearts. This is a perfect gift for your sweetheart.
DOLLAR DAYS FLORAL'S & GIFTS
Dollar Days Building - Garapan P.O Box 501328
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: 670.233.2828/2288
Fax: 670.233.1328
email: micprt@gmail.com www.dollardaysflorals&gifts.com

Valentine's Day Treats
Serenity Salon & Spa
THE ONE SALON & SPA FOR ALL YOUR BEAUTY & RELAXATION NEEDS
FRIENDS & LOVERS DAY
PACKAGE $50 PER PERSON
It's a fun day for love ones and friends:
Pick any two (2) options listed below.
It includes an appetizer and refreshment in our spa lounge. you may bring a bottle of wine if you wish and we can provide you with glassware and an openers.
Choose two (2)
* Spa Manicure & Pedicure
* 60 minutes Serenity Signature Massage
* Serenity Signature Facial
* Haircut W/ Conditioner Treatment & Style
* Make-up application
* Foot spa & Pedicure
* Face cleansing & Diamaond Peel
* Deep scalp conditioner / Head massage
* 60 minutes Foot & Hand massage
SIGNATURE TREATMENT
- Serenity signature nail art by Michelle - $35.00 manicure, pedicure w/ nail art & gel polish
- Serenity Signature blow dry by Mercy - $20.00 Shampoo & deep conditioner & blow dry.
- Serenity Signature facial by analyn - $50.00 relaxing massage & deep cleansing facial treatment.
- Serenity Signature massage by Angie - $40.00 Foot soak and back stretching
- Serenity Signature make-up & hair style by Venus $50.00 - hair style & make-up w/ fake eyelash extension
- Serenity Signature oxygen facial by Pinky $50.00 - cleansing & oxygen facial.
RENEW PACKAGE FOR 2 PERSON
$200
-Body scrub w/ honey body polish
-Oxygen Facial
-Hair & Spa Treatment
-Pedicure
DUEL DELIGHT FOR 2 PERSON
$150
-Signature Facial w/ Diamond Peel
-Signature Massage
-Head & Scalp Treatment includes head massage
MINI SPA DAY FOR 2 PERSON
$100
-Foot Spa w/ Pedicure
-Michelles Manicure
-Haor Spa Treatment
BUSINESS HOURS 10:00 AM - 7:30 PM 营业时间：上午10:00-晚上7:30
For Appointment Please Call 233-6688 or 233-2828

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

Middle Road, Gualo Rai

GRAND OPENING

Thursday @ 1:00PM February 12, 2015

Super Grand Opening Sale on

ECHO Outdoor Power Equipment

shindaiwa

Equipment and Accessories

GRAND OPENING SALE

CASH & CARRY

OIL FILTER

99¢

EVERY DAY IN FEBRUARY!!

WITH THE PURCHASE OF 5 QUARTS OF CARQUEST OIL

THE PROMOTION IS FOR PICKUP TRUCKS AND SEDANS.
CASH & CARRY ONLY, NO CHARGE ACCOUNTS.
THIS PROMOTION RUN UNTIL February 27, 2015
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

2 Convenient Locations To Serve You

Gualo Rai Branch — Tel.: 235-2277 (CARS)
Store Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:00AM to 6:00 PM
Saturdays 8:00AM to 5:00PM • Open Sundays from 8:30AM to 1:00PM

Chalan Kanoa Branch — Tel.: 235-2302
Store Hours: Mon. – Sat. 8:00AM – 5:00PM
CLOSED on SUNDAYS

Cyber security, electronic media policy workshop

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold a three-hour workshop focusing on cyber threats and electronic media policies.

Ron Smith of Angil Design will present a brief history cybercrime, discuss current and future threats, and tell you how you can avoid becoming a victim.

Attorney Tim Bellas will discuss some of the legal issues related to use of electronic media in the workplace and the importance of having a written policy. The seminar will be held from 9am to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Chamber conference room (Suite 315 Marianas Business Plaza).

Computers, social media, and cell phones are commonplace in every business, so it is important that business owners clearly understand the threats that exploit these devices and what steps to take to protect their businesses from these threats. In addition, it is important to provide policies and guidance to employees on the appropriate use of these tools within the workplace setting. The presenters will provide business owners with the knowledge and procedural tools they need in order to achieve these goals.

The workshop should benefit business owners and managers with responsibility for the security and appropriate use of Internet-enabled devices, computers, networks and control systems.

Registration for the seminar is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, third floor. Call 234-7150 or e-mail coordinator@saipanchamber.com to reserve your attendance. Registration fee for Chamber members is $20; $30 for non-Chamber members. Seating is limited to the first 40 paid attendees. ***(SCC)***

BEACH CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop employees have their picture taken with restaurant general manager Susan Macario, third from left, after participating in a beach cleanup on Jan. 20,2015, at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC team meeting today

The 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding its first team meeting today, Feb. 11, at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (by NMPASI). All corporations/businesses, families, schools, government agencies, and non-profit organizations interested in forming a team are encouraged to attend this meeting where important information regarding the 2015 MMAC will be discussed. For more information on the Marianas March Against Cancer contact 2015 MMAC chair Diana I. Benavente at 285-2197, email dibenavente@hotmail.com or visit www.cca-marianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

Water outage in Chalan Kiya today

Residents of Chalan Kiya are being informed that there will be a water outage today, Feb. 11, 2015, from 9am to 12pm. This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas, to test a new pressure reducing valve and allow water from the Kannat Tabla reservoir to bring water service to the Chalan Kiya village. For more information, contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

Free medical mission on Sunday

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will be conducting a free medical mission on Feb. 15, Sunday, from 3pm to 6pm, at the Kilili Beach (Minatchom Atdao Pavillion). There will be free blood sugar check, blood pressure check, massage, facial, eye screening, haircut, snacks, giveaways, and counseling/prayers. For more information, contact Pastor Claire Javillonour at 789-7566. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Feb. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@cca-marianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Survivors, caregivers' support meeting on Thursday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly survivors/caregivers support meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, from 5:30pm to 7pm. The special guest speaker will be the Medical Referral Office Director, Ronald Sablan. To RSVP, email us or call our office at 682-0050. ***(CCA)***

Free class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will organize a class about Japanese culture. Any interested person is kindly requested to register your name by Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, by contacting the Saipan Register at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp. The class will be open to just 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

The class will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor, Bank Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan. The class will take up Japanese animation *Nitabo*, a story of the founder of Tsugaru, shamisen, origami (paper folding), Japanese sake, etc. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 11, 2003

Compulsory retirement? Measure eyes to cut govt payroll costs

In a move seen to reduce the government's payroll expenses, Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano proposed compulsory retirement for employees who have put in more than 25 years of government service. The measure proposes to cover all Retirement Fund members, be it belonging to the Class I or II category, but exempts those involved in the provision of essential public services. Senate Bill 13-126, introduced during Friday's session, runs on the premise that the retirement of such government employees would reduce the existing payroll obligations of the Commonwealth government.

Police look into power overload as possible cause of Susupe fire

Police are looking at electrical overloading or the presence of combustible materials as the possible cause of fire that gutted a commercial structure in Susupe Sunday afternoon. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lt. Pete Muna said initial probe made by arson investigators pointed to a possible overload in electrical use as the primary cause of the blaze. Muna said combustible materials stockpiled inside the establishment might have also aggravated the fire. Gutted by the fire were Grace Corporation's Hyundai parts, a company that rebuilds service radiators of vehicles, and its adjacent workers' staffhouse.

February 11, 2005

CUC assesses facilities for quake damage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is thoroughly assessing all its facilities after one of its fuel storage tanks sustained damaged due to earthquakes last week. CUC executive director Lorraine Babauta reported yesterday that Mobil Marianas, with the assistance of an inspector from the American Petroleum Institute Standard, will be assessing the fuel tank for the actual extent of the damage. The fuel supplier's findings and recommendations are expected to be submitted to CUC by the end of next week, Babauta said. She added that power distribution, water, and wastewater facilities will also be inspected for damage.

'Govt shortchanging NMC by $5.6M a year'

The government has been shortchanging Northern Marianas College for the past 10 years by failing to remit over $5.6 million in nonresident worker fees, as required by law. Public Law 10-66 states that except for $725, 000 that should be reserved for other purposes, all fees collected from the issuance of alien work permits should be given to NMC to fund business, tourism, industrial or technical, or professional programs. At $250 per permit, the government collects about $7.75 million annually from the 31,000 nonresident workers in the Commonwealth. NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero reported, however, that the college receives only an average of $1.4 million a year from P.L. 10-66 funds.

February 11, 2008

Another pedestrian hit by car

An intoxicated man was injured after a car hit him as he was crossing Beach Road, Garapan Sunday night. Balbino Mamaril, 54, suffered abrasions to the left arm and multiple contusions and lacerations to the right side of his head. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that Mamaril was drunk when the incident happened. The driver, Marbert V. Malabanan, 28, was not arrested. Ogumoro said that, according to traffic investigators, Mamaril did not use a marked crosswalk to cross the highway. "The weather was clear and the road surface was dry. This case is still under investigation," she said.

Aetna demands $2.4M payment

The firm now running the government's health care plan says it will terminate the privatized program if runoff claims from the old plan is not settled soon. Aetna Global Benefits is demanding payment of $2.4 million of so-called runoff claims. These claims are medical costs that members of the old Group Health and Life Insurance Program incurred, but did not file a claim for before Oct. 31, 2007. GHLI's old third party administrative services agreement with Aetna expired on that date. On Nov. 1, 2007, the GHLI program was privatized and awarded to Aetna, through the competitive bidding process. The privatized program only covers all new claims arising from medical services rendered after Nov. 1. The CNMI government is now liable for all costs incurred before then.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed Tinian Municipal Transfer Station permit application (No.TMS-2014-X-058). The permit application was submitted by the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Works to construct the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station that will function as a community convenience center for Tinian residents to transport their solid waste. The proposed site for this project is being considered at three (3) possible locations in Tinian- Site A (near Tinian Dump), Site B (south of Tinian Airport), and Site C (near Tinian Power Plant).

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Tinian Elementary School Gymnasium, to solicit comments on the proposed Tinian Municipal Transfer Station.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 303, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 29

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The scourge of secondhand smoke

Three decades ago, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop awakened Americans to the dangers of all that smoke drifting around the office, the airline cabin, the car, the restaurant. Those thin but low clouds weren't just annoying because they made your clothes and skin reek. Secondhand smoke, Koop explained, could sicken or kill:

"It is now clear that disease risk due to the inhalation of tobacco smoke is not limited to the individual who is smoking, but can extend to those who inhale tobacco smoke emitted into the air," Koop reported. Many smokers scoffed. Many people who lived and worked with them didn't know whether to invoke Koop's warning or ignore it and hope for the best.

Flash forward to 2015: Many people jaunt from home to work to restaurant, movie, concert, casino or ballgame, without catching a single whiff of cigarette smoke. Offices are smoke-free. So are bars and restaurants and parks. Not as many kids grow up in homes with parents who smoke there. Guests don't plop down on the sofa and reflexively ask, "Mind if I smoke?" They know the answer. Ashtrays have all but vanished.

Those of us enjoying every lungful of clean air may forget, however, that many Americans still suffer serious health hazards of secondhand smoke. A new and startling statistic from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Some 58 million Americans—1 in 4 nonsmokers—are still exposed to secondhand smoke. Many of these are children, particularly African-American children. Thoughts on that in a moment.

Yes, more Americans are quitting cigarettes. And that means secondhand smoke exposure is tapering off. Just 15 years ago, half of all Americans were exposed to secondhand smoke. So the latest numbers, essentially a reduction of that fraction to one-quarter, are encouraging.

But those 58 million people still suffer the risks of secondhand smoke, and few of them do it willingly.

They suffer because of a patchwork of smoking bans across the country: About 1 in 3 Americans still lives in an area that allows smoking in some bars or restaurants, according to the Americans Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation.

See SMOKE on Next Page

Congressional report on possible Saudi ties to 9/11 should be released

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer, *and is host of "Smerconish" on CNN. Readers may contact him at www.smerconish.com*

Zacarias Moussaoui has upped the ante on the White House to release 28 top-secret pages from a congressional report pertinent to a possible Saudi role in the events of 9/11.

Moussaoui is serving a life sentence for his involvement in the planning of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He has recently inserted himself into litigation in which 9/11 victims allege that the Saudi government funded Islamist charities that provided financial and logistical support to al-Qaida.

Moussaoui's account of being a liaison between Osama bin Laden and members of the Saudi royal family was told to Philadelphia lawyer Sean Carter over the course of two days of questioning in October at the federal supermax prison in Florence, Colo., and has only now been cleared for public release by the U.S. government.

Carter has been defending against a Saudi motion to dismiss his case, facing the unenviable burden of producing evidence of a Saudi link to al-Qaida without the benefit of taking discovery. Moussaoui's testimony was unforeseen. The man who once took flight lessons in Oklahoma and Minnesota in preparation for a terror strike contacted the federal judge presiding over the case and offered to provide information.

According to Carter, much of what Moussaoui told him was new information about his role with al-Qaida, not even revealed during his own trial.

"He testified that he had this role in creating a digital database of al-Qaida's donors and he says that he personally entered the names of a number of senior Saudi officials and members of the royal family," Carter said.

"He explained to us that it was his understanding that they were making donations to bin Laden in order to maintain their legitimacy in the eyes of the Saudi Ulema, who are the Wahhabi religious clerics," Carter said. "The Saudi state itself is the product of a pact between the House of Saud and the Wahhabi Ulema and the continuing legitimacy of that government resides very much on maintaining that bargain."

Inside the walls of supermax, Moussaoui first took an oath to Allah—"May Allah curse the liar"—before providing Carter with sworn testimony. He claimed that Sheikh Sa'id, the chief financial officer of al-Qaida, asked him to undertake a project of tracking Saudi contributions to the jihad effort, a request that came from bin Laden.

"Sheikh Osama wanted to keep a record who give money ... who is to be listened to or who continue to—to the jihad," Moussaoui told Carter.

Moussaoui named many members of the Saudi royal family as having been supportive, a funding source he described as "crucial." He also claimed to have served as a courier for written communications between bin Laden and the House of Saud.

The Saudis vehemently deny Moussaoui's assertions, claiming that he is mentally imbalanced and that the 9/11 Commission was dismissive of such claims. That report "found no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded al-Qaida."

Not so fast, say two 9/11 Commission members—former Navy Secretary John Lehman and former Sen. Bob Kerrey. Both say the 9/11 Commission did not exonerate Saudi Arabia.

And, former Sen. Bob Graham, past chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, told me he is convinced there was a connection between some of the 9/11 terrorists and Saudi Arabia. Graham co-chaired the congressional inquiry into intelligence activities before and after the attacks, whose report included the classified 28 pages. He believes that a Saudi government agent named Omar al-Bayoumi provided assistance to 9/11 hijackers Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar.

"I can't give details because they are classified, Michael, but you correctly state they primarily deal with who financed 9/11 and they point a strong finger at Saudi Arabia," Graham said. He maintains that the 9/11 Commission did not "pursue some of the leads that we had left them with."

What might resolve the discrepancy is the release of 28 pages.

According to Carter, that matter rests with the director of national intelligence for an interagency declassification review, "whatever that is."

"We think the 28 pages are really the tip of the iceberg," he added.

So why would Moussaoui want to help 9/11 plaintiffs?

"I think the reality is he's sitting in prison for the rest of his life and the Saudi royals are not, and I think he has a desire to demonstrate and clear the record about everyone who was involved," Carter said.

Two weeks ago, I asked White House chief of staff Denis McDonough whether the passing of Saudi King Abdullah would support the release of the 28 pages?

"I'm not going to get involved in the 28 pages now, Michael, any more than I did before," McDonough said.

Moussaoui's testimony makes that position even less sustainable. Mr. President, release the 28 pages. We can handle the truth.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Towering fog of bankruptcy

There's only one difference between the good economist and the bad one: The bad economist confines himself to the visible effects; the good economist takes into account both the effect that can be seen and those effects that must be foreseen.

—Frederic Bastiat, French economist.

Retirees opted to see the effects of the instant soba solution—survived the donation of a casino licensee—of $30 million. We ate the dangled fruit, failing to look beyond instant gratification massaging our myopic view smiling on trips to the bank.

But did you know that the program would be bankrupt or broke in about two years time? Aren't we sitting at the edge of permanent financial ruin?

For years we recklessly avoided protecting the solvency of the Retirement Fund. Politicians did everything to sink it. We avoided paying government obligations all along. Today we inch our way in the thick fog of bankruptcy. It's a perfect set up for an implosion.

Moving forward, the court settlement requires the NMI to pay $30 million for fiscal year 2016, $33 million for fiscal year 2017 and $45 million in fiscal year 2018 for a total of at least $1.08 billion. Mirrored against a huge decrease in revenue generation, is there room to maneuver so these obligations are paid on a timely basis? I'm guardedly keeping my fingers crossed! What if the answer is in the negative?

When the program goes broke as a result of insufficient local revenue, it means retirees will not receive their paychecks. The negative impact is horrendous. The direct effect is payless paydays for retirees and the automatic removal of some $70 million from the local economy.

Indirect impact include the banks who'd see reduction in monthly installments, health insurance firms where families pay so they could seek medical help at CHC, more delinquencies at CUC and a near standstill in grocery stores.

It means far less revenue for the local coffers or treasury, translating into the inevitable reduction-in-force of employees. There's also the challenge to meet government obligations. Assuming that the revenue projection for fiscal year 2016 hits around $160 million, minus 65 percent from the total for public payroll, that leaves the NMI with some $56 million.

CHC needs at least $38 million, PSS $30 million, CUC $28.7 million and other departments and agencies. After CHC, PSS, and CUC, there's nothing left for anything else.

Sure, there's the announcement of investor interests moving into the island. This is still at the discussion stage. None has been established and generating revenue as yet. How do we meet their needs with outdated basic infrastructure? Or is this another we could relegate with our usual sleepwalking on significant issues?

At least I've seen the impending effects of the "unforeseen" insofar as the future of the Settlement Fund is concerned. It looks woefully dim! If nothing happens to perk up revenue generation we'd be shivering in the cold winter of uncertainty and, yes, bankruptcy!

How interesting, though, every Republican governor's sterling accomplishment of avoiding remitting government obligation to the Fund. And we put them right back on the driver's seat? Or did I just get out of a coma?

Manila's 'City of Dreams'

Recently, a new mega-casino opened in the Philippines as the fast-growing Southeast Asian nation ups its bid to become a world gaming destination, according to an AFP news account.

Known as the "City of Dreams," the new casino aims to rival Macau and Vegas in terms of gaming revenues.

"The casino is a joint venture between the country's richest man, Henry Sy, Australian billionaire James Packer, and Lawrence Ho, son of Macau casino mogul Stanley Ho.

"The goal is to find the best [sites] in Asia... The Philippines is one of the fastest growing economies anywhere in the world. We've seen the market really pick up," Ho told reporters.

"Ho also acknowledged the huge cost of building the resort. The Philippine government requires a minimum $1 billion investment for new casinos built in the area.

"The Philippine economy grew at more than 6 percent in 2014 for the third straight year, prompting economic planning secretary Arsenio Balisacan to comment that the country has shaken off its reputation as the 'sick man' of Asia."

The new casino is supported or paid for by three billionaires. Don't know what to make of the NMI's $7.1-billion mega casino resort. It inflates and deflates my pride but I've warned my Pinoy brothers and sisters that ours is more expensive by six billion dollars, never mind that it may never be built!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

How much will killing of Jordanian pilot hurt Islamic State?

Acts of individual violence and terror can at times be transformative, representing tipping points or triggers that put into motion transformative events. The 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, for example, triggered a set of pre-wired alliances that led to World War I; the self-immolation of a Tunisian fruit seller triggered what came to be known as the "Arab Spring."

The same logic is now being used to characterize the savage and horrific burning death last month of Jordanian pilot Moaz Kasasbeh. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., said this latest Islamic State atrocity must be a "game changer" for President Barack Obama.

The congressman's words are understandable. This act of violence seems to go beyond even the horrific baseline Islamic State has established.

But as tempting as it may be to see the killing as a transformative act, it probably won't be. And here's why.

There's no doubt that Islamic State has miscalculated. Its beheadings of two Japanese nationals and the burning of the Jordanian pilot reflect a frustrated and perhaps even failing policy. It received no ransom money for the hostages and surrendered leverage by reportedly killing the pilot weeks before negotiations even began. What it did get was a public backlash in Jordan and throughout the region that led to the execution of two militants held by Jordan, one of whom was the prisoner Islamic State originally wanted in a trade.

That said, the question is what will be the lasting impact and damage to Islamic State?

The Jordanians are effective warriors, but how might they hurt Islamic State and how badly? In recent days, Jordan has conducted intense airstrikes against Islamic State targets. Still, Jordanian public opinion, which mostly backed the government after Kasasbeh's killing, is fickle. After Islamic State captured Kasasbeh in December, there was building resentment on the street questioning whether this was Jordan's fight. If the Jordanian military is contemplating commando raids or sustained airstrikes, it risks the capture of additional pilots or soldiers. And presumably any actions Jordan takes against Islamic State would be in concert with coalition strategy. That would be driven mostly by available targets. A high-profile Jordanian military role against high-value Islamic State leadership targets would be better, but those opportunities are rare.

Could Kasasbeh's killing cause such revulsion that it spurs the Arab states into more effective and concerted action? There was widespread condemnation and anger in the Middle East over it, including in Syria, Iran, Qatar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Indeed, getting Sunni Arab states such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to own the fight against the militants has been a U.S. goal. And Washington has had some success. But it's hard to see what else key Arab states would be willing to do or what they could do.

Further, keeping the coalition intact may not be easy over time. The UAE worried about what might happen if its pilots were to be taken hostage and temporarily suspended its airstrikes. It has now agreed to deploy additional aircraft to Jordan. But will Arab states be willing to sustain their role? No Arab state would be prepared to send large numbers of ground troops into Syria or, for that matter, Iraq for much the same reason. Efforts to counter radical Islamic ideology would be helpful and perhaps would do more to prevent the flow of gulf money to militants in Syria. But that effort never has had much success.

As for the United States, Kasasbeh's killing and the Islamic State's claim that Jordan's retaliatory airstrikes killed the American aid worker kidnapped last year only adds to the confusion about American efforts to deal with the militants. Other than additional military coordination with Jordan, we can expect continuation of the overall strategy to check Islamic State gains in Iraq and the plan for assisting Iraqi forces in retaking the city of Mosul and other areas lost to the militants. The air campaign will continue against Islamic State in Syria. Any broader shifts in U.S. policy as a result of the killing, such as deploying large numbers of ground forces, seems unlikely.

There's no doubt that Islamic State has fallen on harder times. The loss of Kobani in northern Syria, difficulty in making further gains in Iraq and the problems of governance have combined to check its momentum from last year.

But the inconvenient truth is that ungoverned spaces in Syria and Iraq present huge opportunities for Islamic State and other Islamist groups. No governance or bad governance in these unhappy lands, combined with sectarian divides deepened by pro-Iranian policies in Iraq and President Bashar Assad's policies in Syria, alienate Sunnis Muslims and keep the recruitment pool for Islamic State very deep.

Obama understandably talks about degrading and ultimately defeating Islamic State. But the latter seems highly unlikely. The war will be long and the field of battle broadened to include places such as Yemen, Libya and, as we've seen, France, Belgium and other parts of Europe.

The horrific fate of Jordan's pilot is less a transformative act that will hasten Islamic State's end and is more a brutal reflection of the sadistic enemy we face.

By AARON DAVID MILLER
Los Angeles Times

Aaron David Miller, a vice president at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, served as a Middle East negotiator in Republican and Democratic administrations. He is the author of The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

SMOKE

From Page 10

Many suffer because they live in lower-income rental housing where smoke seeps from one unit to another.

Or they suffer because they live in homes with smokers who can't or won't take their deadly habit outside.

Or because they can't convince an addicted loved one to quit.

And millions of children suffer because their parents still smoke. Two in 5 children are exposed to secondhand smoke, the CDC says. There's a huge racial disparity to this: An astonishing 68 percent of African-American children are exposed to secondhand smoke. Those levels are far higher than exposure among white children, 37 percent, or Hispanic children, 30 percent.

Those children sucking down fumes remain at risk because no level of secondhand smoke is harmless. People who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to die from heart disease or lung cancer, researchers say. The smoke causes respiratory infections and asthma in children. Secondhand smoke kills more than 400 infants and 41,000 adult nonsmokers every year, the CDC reports. We expect to learn in the future, as more Americans wise up and stop smoking, that that fewer people will be sickened or die from secondhand smoke.

For now, however, this is a continuing public health crisis that still demands attention, decades after scientists aired out the dangers of cigarette smoking.

Smokers know they're killing themselves with every puff. They can't or won't stop. But let's not forget those who have no choice but to suffer the consequences.

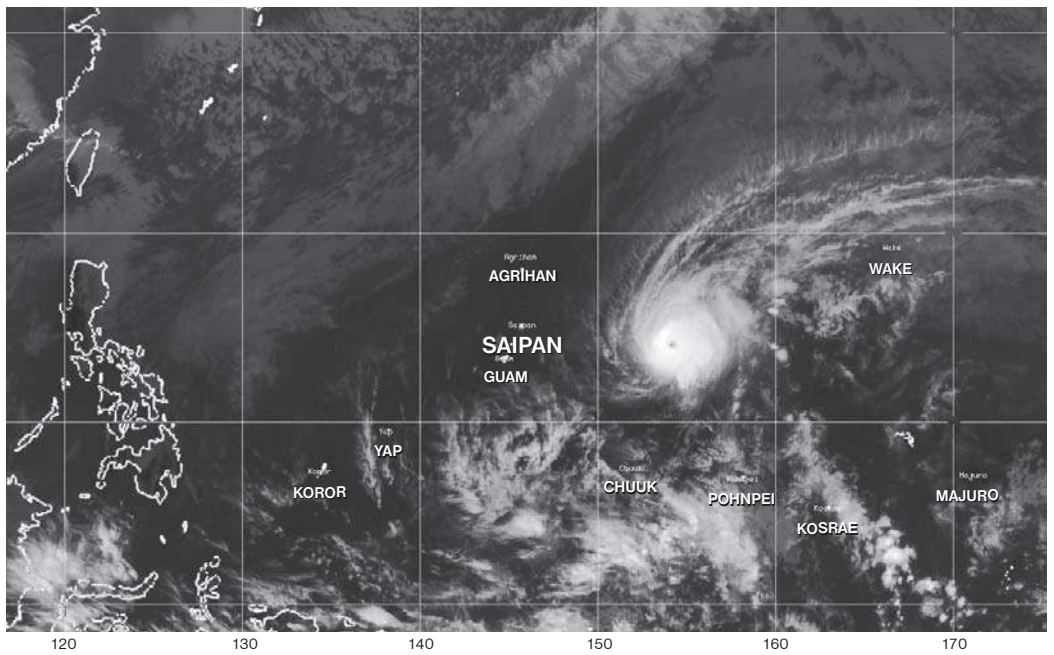
(c)2015 *Chicago Tribune*

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼77º	▲86º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼77º	▲87º ▼76º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Higos (02W) is centered 550 miles north-northwest of Pohnpei near 14N155E with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph and moving toward the northwest at 10 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place within 150 miles of the center. Scattered showers are present farther out from the center between 11N and 20N from 149E to 163E. For more detailed information on Typhoon Higos, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. An old frontal boundary extends east-southeastward from 19N154E to beyond the date line at 15N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. This area includes Wake Island. A cold front curves southwestward from near 25N150E to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 350 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough curves northeastward from 1N130E through a circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 5N146E then to Typhoon Higos at 12N156E. The trough continues southeastward from Higos to end near EQ166E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae, or south of a line from 8N141E to 8N161E to EQ170E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers over the Marshall Islands within 65 miles of a line from 3N172E to 5N176E to 7N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲49	▼23
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼57
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼70
Melbourne	Windy	▲96	▼62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼53
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼21
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲45	▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲55	▼30
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼40
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼21
Tokyo	Sunny	▲54	▼36
Washington, DC	Snow	▲46	▼28

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
12:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:11 AM
Thursday	12:05 AM	11:56 AM
Friday	12:57 AM	12:44 PM
Saturday	1:51 AM	1:36 AM
Sunday	2:47 AM	2:32 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Healthy Restaurant Project makes 'smart choices' easier

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Non-Communicable Disease Bureau of the Division of Public Health, through a subaward from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is introducing a healthy restaurant project to encourage local restaurants to offer fresh, clearly marked healthy menu options.

According to project assistant Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, this effort hopes to make the healthy choice an easy choice for CNMI restaurant patrons.

"In return for participation, restaurants receive free publicity and advertising through project outreach efforts," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "Instead of talking to people one on one, we look at the bigger picture of changing the environment of where they order to help them live a healthier life."

Although the project was initiated last November, Neises-Mocanu and CHCC dietitian Kate Campbell have already surveyed 11 restaurants on island.

"We do this to make sure the program initiatives are sustainable. We look at what is whole food and how restaurants promote their healthy food," she added. " It is one thing to have healthy food, but it is another thing to help people find it and make it easy for them to get."

The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, or REACH, grant will fund the project until September. If it proves successful, the program will run for two more years.

Neises-Mocanu

Neises-Mocanu said that setting up the program well is imperative, so that it will not be burdensome for Public Health's NCD Bureau to take over.

In addition to promoting healthy plates, the project also teams up with Northern Marianas College's Food and Beverage Management class to design a logo for participating restaurants to use on their menu to distinctly mark their healthy dishes.

Neises-Mocanu said that even the smallest changes will make the biggest difference in people's health.

"Restaurants can offer a healthier default side dish. Instead of offering a chicken dish with two scoops of white rice, the default can be the chicken dish with sweet potato and someone can ask for white rice as a change out. Making the healthier option the default would make it easier for people to make the healthy choice."

The program also hopes to improve restaurants' menus through social media. A survey posted online received 170 responses in just a few days. Majority of the responses from local restaurant patrons requested for healthier options, like salads, to be on Saipan restaurant menus.

The project, Neises-Mocanu said, is a significant one for the island community. "We all know that we have high rates of diabetes and hypertension. These are all preventable and often reversible based on healthier eating and healthier lifestyles," she added. "That does not only cost emotional distress for families, because of relatives dying early, but it is a huge economic problem. Our economy can't grow if we have people dying at 50 and have a lot of sick days for workers. …A healthy economy has a healthy population."

To formally kick off the healthy restaurant project, CHCC will show its appreciation to restaurants on Saipan who are already doing their part to make the healthy choice the easy choice for their customers. CHCC CEO Esther Muña will award four "Healthy Food Champion" restaurants this week.

Rota and Tinian restaurant businesses can also take part in the initiative by contacting Neises-Mocanu through the project's website: www.reachcnmi.wix.com/reach. She urges community members to take the healthy restaurant survey online as well at www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnmirestaurants.

The REACH grant awarded CHCC's Public Health NCD Bureau $10,000 for the healthy restaurant project and another $10,000 toward education and enforcement efforts of the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008.

OAG opposes loosening handgun rules in NMI

The Office of the Attorney General recently filed its opposition to plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment in the firearms lawsuit brought by David and Li-Rong Radich.

The plaintiffs asked the court to grant summary judgment on counts 1 and 2 of their complaint. Summary judgment is a judgment entered by the court for one party and against another. If the court grants summary judgment, then the case is resolved without the need for a trial. Essentially, the plaintiffs argue that the Second Amendment protects the individual right to possess firearms in the Commonwealth for the purpose of self-defense. Further, the plaintiffs argue that the Second Amendment protects their right to possess handguns in the Commonwealth for the purpose of self-defense.

The Office of the Attorney opposes the plaintiffs' motion for numerous reasons. First, a favorable ruling by the court would not redress the plaintiffs' alleged injuries. If the court cannot redress the plaintiffs' alleged injuries, then the court cannot exercise jurisdiction over the plaintiffs' claims. Jurisdiction refers to the authority of the court to make legal decisions and issue judgments. If the federal district court does not have jurisdiction, then the court must dismiss plaintiffs' complaint.

Second, the Office of the Attorney General argues that the Second Amendment cannot be interpreted in a manner which is contrary to the intent of the framers of the Covenant. When the Covenant was ratified, the framers of the Covenant, with good reasons, understood that the Second Amendment would not restrict the Commonwealth's authority to prohibit the possession of firearms. Further, the framers understood that the Second Amendment did not protect an individual right to bear arms. Therefore, the opposition asks the court to find, that where a subsequent interpretation of a constitutional right is directly contrary to the known understanding of the framers, it may not be enforced against the Commonwealth, based on the fundamental principle that the intent of the framers is paramount when interpreting the Covenant.

Finally, the opposition argues that handguns are not constitutionally protected in the Commonwealth because handguns have never been used by the law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth for the purpose of self-defense. In *D.C. v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court imbued handguns with constitutional protection because handguns are widely used by Americans for the purpose of self-defense. However, the data used by the United States Supreme Court to make that determination did not include the Commonwealth. A review of the Weapons Control Act and firearm registrations issued between 1983 and 2015 proves beyond all doubt that the law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth have never used handguns for self-defense. Therefore, the Office of the Attorney General opposes plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment because handguns do not enjoy constitutional protection in the Commonwealth.

The Office of the Attorney General would like to thank the many attorneys and citizens that donated their time and energy to assisting with this case. In particular, we would like to thank attorney Sean Frink for his support and for providing access to experts on the Second Amendment; attorney Joseph Horey for his excellent research and his contribution to the opposition; the staff of the Commonwealth Archives at the Northern Marianas College for their help with researching the history of the Weapons Control Act; and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council for maintaining the digital archive of the Covenant negotiations and the Constitutional Convention. ***(Office of the Attorney General)***

Delta serves Starbucks coffee in-flight

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines this month began brewing Starbucks coffee on board all of its flights around the world. The move continues Delta's effort to partner with high-quality, like-minded brands in an effort to enhance the overall traveling experience for customers. With the expanded partnership, Delta and its Delta Connection partners will serve Starbucks coffee on more than 5,000 flights per day.

In 2013, Delta began serving Starbucks on its West Coast Shuttle routes between Los Angeles International Airport and San Francisco International Airport as well as the transcontinental markets New York – JFK International to LAX and SFO.

Delta will serve Starbucks Pike Place Roast and Starbucks VIA Ready Brew Italian Roast decaf in recyclable co-branded cups. ***(Delta)***

Higos seen to weaken by Saturday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Typhoon Higos continues moving toward the northwest.

No watches or warnings are in effect in the Northern Marianas region.

At 1pm yesterday, Typhoon Higos was located 660 miles east of Guam and 600 miles east of Saipan, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Its present movement is north-northwest. at 7 mph.

Higos is forecast to continue a weakening trend through the rest of the week. By Saturday morning, Higos is expected to be a weakening tropical depression near Minami Tori Shima.

Typhoon force winds extend outward up to 25 miles from the center. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the center.

Residents of the Marianas are encouraged to stay informed on this developing weather situation. Keep abreast of the latest forecasts and listen for any further statements from the National Weather Service and the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The agency will be monitoring the movement of Typhoon Higos and will be issuing bulletins as they become available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at 237-8000 or 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(HSEM)***

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking for the following positions:

- Cook/Butcher
- Cook Helper
- Counter Attendant
- CSC Driver

Requirements: Superior Court and District/Federal Court Police Clearances and Health Certificate. Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office.

No phone calls please.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 23, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 23, 2015, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

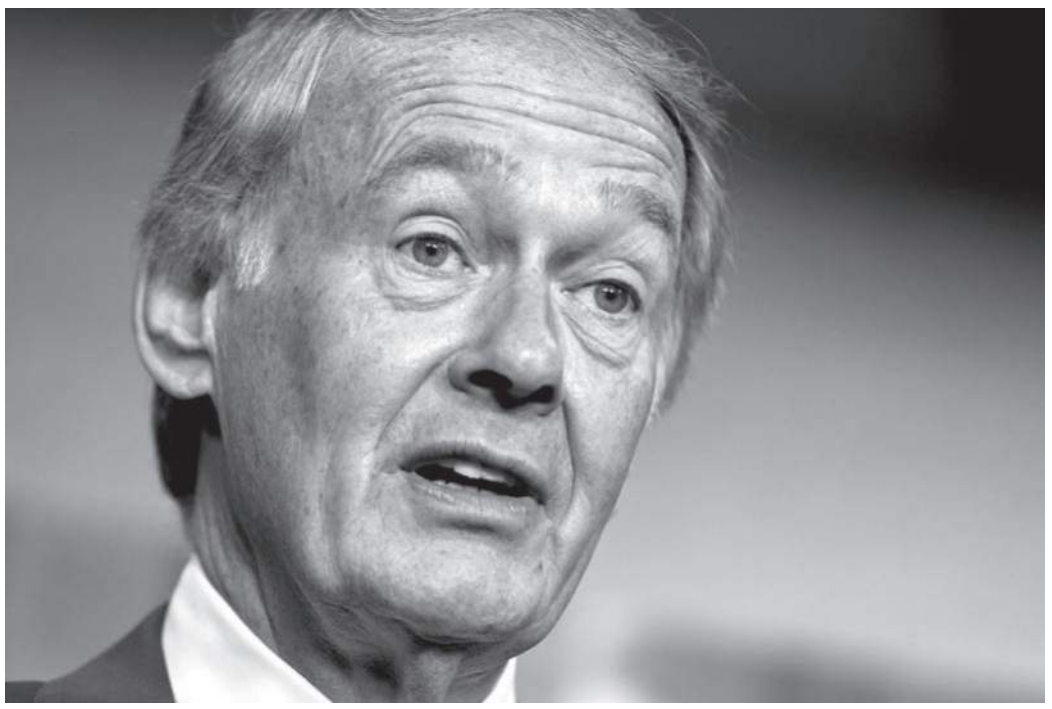
For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Business

Report: Automakers fail to fully protect against hacking



AP

In this June 18, 2012 file photo, Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Automakers are cramming cars with wireless technology, but they have failed to adequately protect those features against the real possibility that hackers could take control of vehicles or steal personal data, a member of the U.S. Senate is asserting.

Basing his argument on information provided by manufacturer, Sen. Edward Markey has concluded that "many in the automotive industry really don't understand what the implications are of moving to this new computer-based era" of the automobile.

The Massachusetts Democrat has asked automakers a series of questions about the technologies—and any safeguards against hackers - that may or may not have been built into the latest models of their vehicles. He also asked what protections have been provided to ensure that information computers gather and often transmit wirelessly isn't used in a harmful or invasive manner.

Appearing Monday on "CBS This Morning," Markey said motorists should be asking questions because "there really aren't any clear guidelines on the books."

Markey said the movement of the automobile from the combustion engine era to the computer era carries wide implications. "No longer do you need a crowbar to break into an automobile," he said in the interview. "You can do it with an iPad."

Markey posed his questions after researchers showed how hackers can get into the controls of some popular cars and SUVs, causing them suddenly to accelerate, turn, sound the horn, turn headlights off or on and modify speedometer and gas-gauge readings.

The responses from 16 manufacturers "reveal there is a clear lack of appropriate security measures to protect drivers against hackers who may be able to take control of a vehicle or against those who may wish to collect and use personal driver information," a report by Markey's staff concludes.

Today's cars and light trucks typically contain more than 50 electronic control units—effectively small computers—that are part of a network in the car. At the same time, nearly all new cars on the market today include at least some wireless entry points to these computers, such as tire pressure monitoring systems, Bluetooth, Internet access, keyless entry, remote start, navigation systems, WiFi, anti-theft systems and cellular-telematics, the report said. Only three automakers said they still have some models without wireless entry, but those models are a small and declining share of their fleets.

AP-GfK Poll: Majority backs Obama's efforts on unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans' views of President Barack Obama have improved slightly in the past two months, and opinions are more positive about the direction of the country and the health of the economy, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds.

A slim majority now approves of the way Obama is handling unemployment, according to the poll, conducted before Friday's release of a surprisingly strong jobs report.

Forty-seven percent of those surveyed approve of how Obama is doing his job, compared with 41 percent in December, and 51 percent approve of his handling of unemployment, compared with 44 percent before.

Nearly half say the economy is good now, while 41 percent thought that in December. In December 2013, only one-third called the economy good.

Approval of the way Obama is handling the economy improved slightly, 41 percent to 45 percent, over the past two months.

Friday's report showed that U.S. employers added 257,000 jobs in January, and the average hourly wage grew by 12 cents to $24.75, the biggest gain since September 2008. Hourly pay has increased 2.2 percent in the past year.

"We've come a long way these past six years since we suffered the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression," Obama said Friday in Indianapolis. "In 2014, our economy created more than 3.1 million jobs, and that's the best year of job growth since the 1990s," adding that "America is poised for another good year."

Despite the increase in jobs, the unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent from 5.6 percent, largely because more people began looking for jobs. An increase in the number of job hunters can indicate that people are more confident in their ability to find work, even if the official unemployment rate goes up.

But people still feel that their own recovery is lagging, the poll shows, with only 35 percent saying their own family has completely or mostly recovered from economic downturn.

Just 27 percent see the job market where they live as being most of the way to recovery, far less than the number that thinks big businesses (55 percent) and the stock market (53 percent) have bounced all the way back.

People also fear the possibility of another downturn. Three-quarters say the government has not put the right rules and regulations in place to stop another recession from occurring.

Obama has been keen to take credit for the improving economic landscape, arguing that new financial regulations, an early boost in government spending and the bailout of the auto industry under his watch were essential to the recovery.

Economic concerns remain at the top of Americans' minds, the AP-GfK poll shows, with 9 in 10 calling the economy a very or extremely important issue, significantly more than any other issue asked about in the poll.

Food scares cost McDonald's in China, Japan; sales fall

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP)—Food-quality scares are hurting McDonald's in China and Japan, where weakness contributed to a key global sales figure falling 1.8 percent.

The world's largest hamburger chain said sales dropped 12.6 percent in January at locations open at least 13 months in the division that includes the Asia region. That overshadowed a 0.4 percent rise at U.S. locations and a comparable 0.5 percent increase in Europe.

McDonald's shares fell $1.27, or 1.4 percent, to close Monday at $92.72.

McDonald's Corp. said its performance in Asia was hurt by customer perception issues in Japan, where a human tooth, plastic pieces and other objects have been found in its food. In China, McDonald's is trying to recover from the ongoing fallout from another food-safety scandal.

Over the summer, an undercover TV report in the country showed one of McDonald's major suppliers repackaging meat that was alleged to be expired. The claim has not been publicly confirmed by the supplier or the government. But the plant stopped operations, and many of McDonald's restaurants in the country were left unable to sell burgers, chicken nuggets and other items. The chain's reputation took a hit as well.

Chief Financial Officer Peter Bensen said during a January conference call that McDonald's estimates it will take at least three to six more months for its business in China to return to normal. He said worsening perceptions are expected to hurt Japan's results for "the foreseeable future."

Back in the U.S., McDonald's said breakfast items performed well but that it was offset by tough competition. The chain is dealing with competition on a number of fronts, including convenience stores that are selling more food and smaller chains such as Chipotle that market themselves as being of higher quality.

The rise in Europe reflected strength in the U.K. and Germany largely offset by softness in France and Russia.

As it struggles to fix its business, McDonald's Corp. said late last month that it was replacing CEO Don Thompson with Steve Easterbrook, its chief brand officer.

The announcement came after McDonald's reported a drop in its fourth-quarter earnings and sales and said it was making major changes in 2015 to win back customers.

The company said it will cut down new restaurant openings in certain markets. It's also simplifying its menu and looking to offer customers more ways to customize their burgers and giving them multiple ways to order, such as at a self-order kiosk or with a mobile device.

McDonald's has more than 36,000 locations in more than 100 countries.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Netflix brings its streaming video service to Cuba

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Netflix began selling its Internet video service in Cuba Monday in what appears to be a largely symbolic move driven by the recent loosening of U.S. restrictions on doing business with the communist-run island. The expansion probably will generate more publicity for Netflix Inc. than new subscribers because only a small fraction of people living in or visiting Cuba have the high-speed Internet access needed to stream movies and TV shows. The audience with fast enough Internet service to get Netflix consists primarily of international executives, foreign media workers and high-ranking government officials. Many more Cubans have access to relatively fast internet connections if they work for state businesses authorized to have the service, but their online activities are monitored. Streaming videos at work is among the activities that could trigger disciplinary action.

Bernie Madoff trustee returns $355 million more to investors

NEW YORK (AP)—About $355 million distributed last week to investors cheated in Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme means over half of allowable claims have been paid in full, the trustee recovering money for investors announced Monday. Trustee Irving Picard said everyone with an allowable claim of less than $976,000 has been fully paid as well. The latest distribution from money generated through settlements with feeder funds was the fifth major payout since Picard was appointed to oversee the recovery of money after Madoff's December 2008 arrest. Madoff pleaded guilty to fraud several months later and was sentenced to 150 years in prison in North Carolina.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,729.21	2,046.74	4,726.01
-95.08	-8.73	-18.39
-0.53%	-0.42%	-0.39%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.279	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7534	Philippine Peso	44.341
British Pound	0.6563	Indian Rupee	61.995	Singapore Dollar	1.3533
Canadian Dollar	1.2459	Indonesian Rupiah	12645.5	South Korean Won	1088.45
Chinese Yuan	6.2439	Japanese Yen	118.51	Swiss Franc	0.9242
Euro	0.8822	Malaysian Ringgit	3.565	Taiwan Dollar	31.4776
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3469	Thailand Baht	32.6078

Nation

Survivor of USS *Arizona* from Pearl Harbor attack dies at 100

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP)—The oldest living crew member of the battleship USS *Arizona* to have survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor has died in Northern California at the age of 100.

Retired Navy Lt. Commander Joseph Langdell died on Feb. 4 at a nursing home in Yuba City, California, according to his son, Ted Langdell. A tally maintained by the USS Arizona Reunion Association, for which Langdell had served as president, identified him as not only the oldest Arizona survivor, but the last surviving officer from the naval ship that lost 1,177 men—nearly four-fifths of its crew—when it was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941.

Langdell was an ensign on an assignment that had him sleeping on a military base adjacent to the ship in Honolulu on the morning Pearl Harbor was attacked. He spent the following hours and days trying to rescue shipmates from the burning water, preparing for another possible air assault and leading the survivors tasked with removing the remains of the dead from the partially sunken ship, his son said.

"I felt absolutely helpless as I watched the attack," Langdell told The Associated Press on the 56th anniversary of the attack that drew the United States into World War II. "If I had been aboard, I would have been killed in that No. 2 (gun) turret. That was the one that blew up. It was my luck to be assigned off the ship that day."

The New Hampshire native spent another four years in the Navy before going to work as an auctioneer, a furniture manufacturer's representative and eventually, the long-time owner of a Yuba City furniture store.

Ted Langdell said his father did not talk about Pearl Harbor during his childhood and returned there for the first time since the war in 1976, when his older son was in the Navy. After that, Langdell took comfort in meeting with fellow survivors and pride in always wearing a USS Arizona hat.

"It drew attention not just to him, but gave him the chance to tell stories," the son said. "Anyone in the service has stories to tell if you make the effort to listen and to really hear and try to understand what they are saying."

Per his wishes, Langdell's ashes will be put aboard the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii, mostly likely next Dec. 7.

The reunion association says there are now eight remaining survivors.

AP

This Nov. 13, 2006 photo provided by Ted Langdell shows retired Navy Lt. Commander Joseph Langdell wearing his dress white uniform in front of the mantle of his former home in Yuba City, Calif.

Ohio girl, 11, charged with murder in 2-month-old's death

CLEVELAND (AP)—An 11-year-old suburban girl has been charged with murder in the beating death of a 2-month-old who was staying overnight with her and her mother to give the baby's mom a break.

The 11-year-old, her mother and the baby girl, Zuri Whitehead, were on a couch downstairs when the mother fell asleep at about 3 a.m. Friday, Wickliffe police Chief Randy Ice said at a news conference Monday. The mother was awakened less than an hour later by her daughter, who was holding the badly injured infant. Ice said the 11-year-old took the infant upstairs. When she returned downstairs, the infant was bleeding and her head was badly swollen, he said.

The 11-year-old's mother immediately called 911, Ice said. Zuri was flown to a children's trauma center in Cleveland, where she died.

The mother of the 11-year-old and Zuri's mother, Trina Whitehead, have known each other for five or six years but aren't related, Ice said. Trina Whitehead has three other children and had the girl's mother keep Zuri, of Cleveland, overnight to give her a breather.

The Associated Press is not naming the 11-year-old girl or her mother because of her age.

Neither Ice nor a Lake County juvenile court official could recall a murder suspect being that young. Court administrator Chris Simon said 13 is the youngest age that children are typically detained at the county's juvenile detention center, where the girl is being held. Juvenile Judge Karen Lawson entered a not guilty plea for the girl at a detention hearing Monday and ordered that she undergo a competency hearing.

FBI crime statistics show there were 20 children age 12 and under in the U.S. who were accused of murder during 2012, the most recent year for which statistics were available.

The girl cannot be tried as an adult. A child must be at least 14 years old in Ohio to be turned over to adult court. An 11-year-old can, however, be sentenced to a state Department of Youth Services facility until age 21.

The middle school the girl attends had called police about the girl on one occasion for a non-violent incident, Ice said. The girl and her mother have been questioned.

The girl did not show any remorse, Ice said. "I'm not sure she appreciated the gravity of what she did," he said.

Drew Peterson charged with plotting to kill prosecutor

CHICAGO (AP)—Drew Peterson, the former suburban Chicago police officer convicted of killing his third wife and suspected in the disappearance of his fourth, has been charged with trying to hire someone to kill the prosecutor who helped put him in state prison, authorities announced Monday.

Peterson appeared in court on charges that between September 2013 and December 2014, while behind bars, he solicited a person to find someone he could pay to kill Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow. Peterson did not enter a plea.

Peterson, 61, has been in prison since he was convicted in 2012 of first-degree murder in the 2004 bathtub drowning of his third wife, Kathleen Savio. Savio's death initially was ruled an accident, but after Peterson's fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, disappeared in 2007, Savio's body was exhumed and her death was ruled a homicide.

Glasgow's office charged Drew Peterson with murder and in 2012 the former Bolingbrook police sergeant was convicted and sentenced to 38 years in state prison.

The latest complaint was filed by both the Illinois attorney general's office and the prosecutor in Randolph County—the location of Menard Correctional Center, where Peterson is serving his sentence. In the two-page complaint, Peterson is charged with solicitation of murder for hire and one count of solicitation of murder, both felonies carrying a maximum sentence of at least 30 years in prison.

Peterson attorney Steven Greenberg said the charges "seem a bit absurd" because Peterson would have nothing to gain by trying to have Glasgow killed.

"This is completely out of character and inconsistent with everything I know about (Peterson)," Greenberg said. "I'll wait to see what evidence they have."

Monday's announcement is the latest chapter in a case that became a media sensation almost from the day Peterson's 23-year-old fourth wife, Stacy, disappeared in 2007. As a massive effort to find her grew to include divers and cadaver dogs searching ponds and thick wooded areas near Peterson's Bolingbrook home, news trucks lined his street.

AP

In this May 8, 2009 file photo, former Bolingbrook, Ill., police sergeant Drew Peterson arrives at the Will County Courthouse in Joliet, Ill., for his arraignment on charges of first-degree murder in the 2004 death of his third wife.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury seated in slaying of 'American Sniper' author

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—A jury was seated Monday in the trial of a man charged with killing the former Navy SEAL depicted in the Oscar-nominated movie "American Sniper," with the judge estimating no more than two dozen people were dismissed from service because of publicity about the case. Ten women and two men will serve as jurors for Eddie Ray Routh's trial, which starts Wednesday with opening statements. Routh, a former Marine, is charged with capital murder in the deaths of 38-year-old Chris Kyle and Kyle's friend, 35-year-old Chad Littlefield. Kyle and Littlefield were trying to help Routh when prosecutors say he shot them at a Texas gun range in 2013. The movie based on Kyle's memoir as a celebrated sniper who served four tours in Iraq has grossed nearly $300 million. In response to the attention paid to the Kyle case, officials called in more than four times as many potential jurors as they would for a regular trial. Yet it took just one day to seat the panel, after a screening process last week narrowed the jury pool.

Ex-school official gets 10 years for abusing 2 students

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A onetime California school official was sentenced Monday to 10 years in state prison for sexually assaulting two women when they were her students, including a woman who confronted her in a recorded phone call that went viral on YouTube. Andrea Cardosa, 41, of Perris, was sentenced in Riverside County Superior Court on three charges of committing lewd acts on a child. She avoided a potential life sentence by pleading guilty last month. Prosecutors dropped more than a dozen other counts. Cardosa was charged with abusing a former student at Chemawa Middle School in Riverside beginning when the girl was 12. The abuse lasted from 1997 to 2001, prosecutors said.

Gay marriage comes to Alabama over chief judge's objections

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama's chief justice built his career on defiance: In 2003, Roy Moore was forced from the bench for disobeying a federal court order to remove a boulder-size Ten Commandments monument from the state courthouse. On Monday, as Alabama became the 37th state where gays can legally wed, Moore took a defiant stand again, employing the kind of states' rights language used during the Civil War era and again during the civil rights movement. He argued that a federal judge's Jan. 23 ruling striking down the Bible Belt state's gay-marriage ban was an illegal intrusion on Alabama's sovereignty. And he demanded the state's probate judges refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Asia

Study: Cats, foxes behind Australia's alarming extinctions

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia has always been unique, from its geographical isolation at the bottom of the Earth to its infamous bevy of venomous creatures. Now, scientists have uncovered another unique—and disturbing—facet of Australian life: the country's mammals are going extinct at an alarmingly high rate, due in large part to a couple of critters with voracious appetites.

A study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on Monday shows that more than 10 percent of the land mammal species endemic to Australia have been wiped out since European settlement. The main culprit? Cats and foxes brought to the continent by those settlers.

Australia's extraordinary extinction rate has long been a source of puzzlement. In the rest of the world, the extinction of various species is generally blamed on humans who have overhunted the animals or destroyed their habitat. But in sparsely populated Australia, much of the vast, desert interior remains virtually untouched by people. By global standards, it should be a paradisiacal safe-haven for animals.

A group of Australian scientists set out to pinpoint the scope of the extinction problem and its cause by tracking the fate of all the country's land and marine mammals since the first European settlers arrived in Australia in 1788.

The researchers found that 11 percent of the 273 land mammal species endemic to Australia have gone extinct since European settlement and another 21 percent are considered threatened. By comparison, just one North American native land mammal became extinct since European settlement—the sea mink, which was overhunted. Worldwide, around 1.5 percent of 5,500 mammal species are extinct.

The researchers found that much of the Australian species' decline coincided with the introduction of two animals: the feral cat, which sailors brought to Australia on ships to keep the on-board rat populations at bay, and red foxes, brought to the continent for hunting.

As it turned out, both species hunted a little too well. And they spread rapidly.

"We knew it was bad, but I think our tallies were much worse than previously thought," said one of the study's authors, John Woinarski of Australia's Charles Darwin University.

AP

In this undated photo provided by the Department of the Environment, a feral cat catches and eats a crimson rosella bird at an unknown location in Australia.

"The fact that we're losing such a large proportion of our species is a problem of international importance."

The scientists noted that seven species that were once widespread on the Australian mainland now live naturally only on islands that the cats and foxes have yet to colonize. They also discovered that unlike the rest of the world, where larger mammals are at the highest risk of extinction, the Australian mammals being killed off are small—perfectly "meal-sized" for their predators.

Australia has a long and troubled history with introduced species. The most notorious is the cane toad, which was imported to the country's north in 1935 in a bid to control beetles on sugarcane plantations. The trouble was, the toads couldn't jump high enough to eat the beetles, which live on top of cane stalks.

Malaysia top court upholds Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy conviction

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's top court on Tuesday upheld opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy conviction in a case seen at home and aboard as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the government.

Federal Court judge Arifin Zakat, who read the verdict on behalf of the five-judge panel, said there was "overwhelming evidence" that Anwar sodomized an aide, and therefore the court was upholding a 5-year sentence imposed by the Appeals Court last year.

This was Anwar's last avenue for appeal, and it means he will go back to prison immediately. As the last sentence of the verdict was read out, Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah, burst into tears. The 67-year-old poltician hugged and consoled her before turning to his children and grandchildren. He smiled and hugged them too.

Ibrahim

"I am alright," he told one of his supporters in the court room. Hundreds more were gathered outside the imposing court building in Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Malaysia.

Sodomy, even consensual, is a crime in Muslim-majority Malaysia and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Judge Arifin said the defense allegations that the case was a political conspiracy "remains an allegation, unsubstantiated by any facts whatsoever." He also rejected the defense argument that the semen samples taken from the aide, Saiful Azlan Bukhari's body, were tampered with by the police.

Anwar was accused of sodomizing Saiful in 2008 when he was working in the opposition election campaign office, but was acquitted by the High Court in 2012. However, the Appeals Court overturned the acquittal in March last year and sentenced him to five years in jail. Anwar went to Federal Court to appeal that verdict.

"It is beyond reasonable doubt that (Saiful) was sodomized by the appellant. The appeal is dismissed," Judge Arifin said as he wrapped up reading the verdict, which took two hours.

Anwar, who was seen as the most potent threat to Prime Minister Najib Razak's party, has said the charges were trumped up to kill his political career.

Japan OKs new aid policy seeking to gain more global clout

TOKYO (AP)—Seeking more assertive diplomatic and national security role internationally, Japan's Cabinet on Tuesday adopted new guidelines for international aid that for the first time clearly state that it will allow provisions for foreign armed forces, although limited to non-military purposes.

And the guidelines say Japan should prioritize aid to Southeast Asia to strengthen cooperation amid China's growing presence in the region.

It says Japan should spend aid money more effectively to serve its national interests amid limited budgets and sporadic efforts to boost Japan's economy. Japan for instance plans to continue assistance for Caribbean island countries, many of them supporters of Japan's campaign for commercial whaling, a Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity, because he made the comment before the official release of the guidelines.

The changes, the first in 12 years, are in line with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to bolster Japan's international role in diplomacy and national security.

"Taking into consideration that armed forces are increasingly playing major roles in post-conflict reconstruction and disaster relief efforts, we specified our policy regarding non-military projects," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

The guidelines say Japan's pacifist aid policy remains unchanged and that each provision will be scrutinized carefully, although it raised concerns about whether Japan can ensure that the money is not funneled into military use.

Japan will also expand humanitarian assistance to countries fighting against terrorism, like the $200 million non-military contribution Abe pledged last month to six Middle Eastern countries fighting against Islamic State militants. Days later, the militant group demanded Japan pay the same amount in ransom for two Japanese citizens in a hostage crisis that ended with the beheading of both.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hong Kong woman guilty in Indonesian maid torture case

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong woman who was accused of torturing her Indonesian maid in a case that sparked outrage for the scale of its brutality was convicted of a slew of assault and other charges on Tuesday. A judge found Law Wan-tung guilty of 18 charges that also included criminal intimidation and failure to pay wages or give time off work to Erwiana Sulistyaningsih. Her case highlighted the vulnerabilities of migrants working as domestic staff across Asia and the Middle East. It gained widespread attention after photos of her injuries circulated among Indonesians in Hong Kong. They showed her face, hands and legs covered with scabs and lacerations, and blackened, peeling skin around her feet.

Afghan officials: Drone strike kills Islamic State recruiter

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The top recruiter for the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan was killed by a drone strike Monday, local officials said, marking the first such attack on the extremist group in a volatile country where it has a small but growing following. U.S. officials said a total of eight people were killed in the drone strike, but could not confirm the Islamic State recruiter's death. The deputy governor of the southern Helmand province identified the recruiter as Abdul Rauf, saying he and others were killed when a drone-fired missile struck their car. The attack would appear to deal a blow to the Islamic State group's efforts to develop a local affiliate to challenge the long-dominant Taliban.

Thai-US military exercise launched amid tensions over coup

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand and the United States on Monday launched their annual Cobra Gold military exercise, a major multilateral training event scaled down this year amid mutual recriminations over last year's Thai military coup. In a speech marking the opening of the exercise, W. Patrick Murphy, the top U.S. diplomat in Thailand, said that bilateral relations since the May 22 coup had been challenging and reiterated that Washington hopes for a quick return to democracy. Thailand's military-led government has said it expects to hold elections early next year. U.S. officials previously announced that this year's exercise in eastern Thailand would be scaled down, cancelling a large-scale amphibious landing and emphasizing humanitarian operations training. More than 13,000 military personnel from seven nations are participating, and other nations are observing.

World

Italy: 29 migrants die of hypothermia crossing Mediterranean

MILAN (AP)—At least 29 migrants have died from hypothermia while traveling from North Africa to Italy aboard a smuggler's life raft in heavy seas, amid a surge of migrants making the dangerous sea crossing despite the harsh winter conditions.

The victims were among 106 people packed aboard an inflatable life raft who were trying to cross the Mediterranean in rough seas and freezing temperatures, Italian coast guard Cmdr. Filippo Marini said Monday. The migrants had summoned help late Sunday via satellite telephone while still off Libya's coast.

Marini said a merchant ship in the area responded until the coast guard arrived from the southernmost Italian island of Lampedusa and took on board both the survivors and the victims in seas with waves as high as 9 meters (30 feet), roughly the height of a three-story building.

Rescuers found seven corpses on board the raft, while the rest of the victims, in very poor physical condition, died during the rescue and while being transported to land, Marini said.

AP

Some of the migrants that were rescued at sea sit on a bus in the harbor of Lampedusa Monday, Feb. 9, 2015.

"The smugglers, in their wickedness, threw them in a life raft in the middle of the sea," Marini said. "It is obvious they were traveling in physically stressful conditions. We are in the middle of winter, with conditions at the limit for everyone."

Save the Children said the number of migrant arrivals this year is outpacing even the extraordinary rate of arrivals of 2014, indicating the desperation of migrants to flee to Europe, many from war and conflict. While Libya once provided a sort of layover, renewed conflict there has forced migrants to continue their journey even throughout the harsh winter months.

In January, 3,528 migrants reached Italy, up by two-thirds from 2,171 in the first month of 2014, a year that brought 170,100 migrants to Italy's shores.

"Bad winter conditions have not interrupted the flows of sea arrivals, and demonstrate the lack of alternatives for those who are forced, notwithstanding everything, to attempt a crossing," said Raffaele Milano, Save the Children's director in Italy.

Hundreds die each year trying to make the crossing, often in unseaworthy boats, including 360 migrants who died off Lampedusa in October 2013. The tragedy prompted Italy to launch costly humanitarian patrols of the Mediterranean that were suspended last November in favor of a Europe-led Triton monitoring program.

The latest deaths raised calls for renewed humanitarian patrols of the Mediterranean, with Save the Children and others noting that the Triton program calls only for monitoring of European waters, not international or Libyan seas where many migrant tragedies, like Monday's, unfold.

``If the goal is to increase the numbers of deaths and decrease the number of survivors, then it has succeeded," Lampedusa Mayor Giusi Nicolini said on Sky TG24.

Obama, Merkel rally behind diplomacy in Ukraine conflict

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel rallied behind efforts to reach a long-shot diplomatic resolution to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine Monday, but they offered no clear path for how the West would proceed if talks this week fail.

During a joint White House news conference, Obama dangled the prospect that the U.S. could for the first time send anti-tank weapons and other defensive arms to Ukraine. While no decision has been made, the president said he had ordered his team to consider "whether there are additional things we can do to help Ukraine bolster its defenses in the face of Russian aggression."

Merkel staunchly opposes arming Ukraine's beleaguered military. The German chancellor, who has perhaps the most productive relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, made clear she had not given up on the possibility that diplomatic negotiations could produce an elusive peace plan.

"It has always proved to be right to try again and again to sort such a conflict," Merkel said through a translator.

Later Monday, during a joint news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa, Merkel reiterated, "I hope that we shall be able to solve this conflict by diplomatic means because I think by military means it cannot be solved."

Harper said he admires the efforts by Germany and France to bring about a peaceful solution but added: "Unfortunately at this time Mr. Putin has rejected diplomatic means. He seems to move his agenda through military violence."

The U.S. and Europe have focused on economic sanctions in their punitive actions against Russia. The penalties, along with plummeting oil prices, have caused significant damage to Russia's economy.

The European Union decided Monday to temporarily hold off on ordering more sanctions on the Russians and Ukrainian separatists while awaiting the outcome of this week's peace talks.

The U.S. and Europe have largely been in agreement on their response to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, raising the possibility that a public split over lethal aid is merely a tactic to push Putin to strike a deal to end the fighting. Obama and Merkel both repeatedly said Monday that the U.S. and Europe would stay united in efforts to stop Russian provocations.

The White House meetings followed German and French-led talks last week with Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The parties will meet again Wednesday in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. The United States has not been at the table for either set of discussions.

In eastern Ukraine on Monday, a powerful explosion rocked a chemical plant and set it on fire outside the separatist stronghold of Donetsk. Rebels said government shelling had hit the plant, which lies in the middle of Ukraine's industrial heartland.

More than 5,300 people have been killed since fighting in eastern Ukraine began in April, according to a United Nations tally. On Monday, Ukraine said about 1,500 Russian troops had crossed the border into Ukraine via rebel-controlled border posts over the weekend, but military spokesman Andriy Lysenko did not provide any proof.

Russia has denied supplying the rebels with either troops or heavy weapons, but Western military experts say the sheer amount of new heavy weapons in eastern Ukraine belies the Russian denial.

Survivors: Police tear gas made soccer stadium a death trap

CAIRO (AP)—Survivors described it as a corridor of death: a narrow route of high, chain-link security fences and barbed wire that thousands of soccer fans were filing through before entering the stadium to watch their team play.

Then, mayhem broke out. Those at the front of the line were turned back by police. Those in the back continued to press forward. Jittery police fired tear gas into the middle of the crowd, creating what survivors said was "like a whirlpool"—sucking people into a crush of bodies with no way out.

The stampede killed 22 people Sunday night at the Air Defense stadium, a military facility in an eastern suburb of Cairo, prior to the game between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI.

The scene was all too familiar. Almost three years to the day, 74 soccer fans were killed in unprecedented stadium riot in Port Said where the Al-Masry team hosted a match with rival Al-Ahly of Cairo as police watched and failed to intervene. That Feb. 1, 2012, bloodshed prompted the cancellation of the national championship, further entrenching the hostility between police and soccer fans.

Political factions Monday called for the resignation of the interior minister, who heads the security forces. Police were criticized for incompetence and for callous disregard for life. In a further show of insensitivity, Sunday's match went ahead despite the deaths, ending in a 1-1 tie. A Zamalek player who refused to play was punished, with the team cancelling his contract.

Many saw the violence as political—police settling scores with fans who have often clashed with security forces even before the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak and other unrest that has followed in the country.

"I never thought they would fire tear gas here. I thought it would be impossible, and they would realize that people would for sure die," Mahmoud, a 27-year-old survivor, told The Associated Press.

He said he climbed one of the fences to escape when a boy about 12 years old begged him to pull him up too. When he did, both tumbled back into the tangle of panicked people.

"People were fainting. Everyone stepped over the other," said Mahmoud, who asked to be identified by only his first name for fear of police reprisal. "My luck was I was the last on the pile."

Sunday's match was the first Egyptian Premier League game in which fans were allowed back into the stadiums since the 2012 riot, adding to the excitement and eagerness of the fans of Zamalek, one of Egypt's two top teams. Before Sunday, crowds had been banned from attending.

Only 10,000 tickets were distributed for the 35,000-seat stadium, but hundreds more tried to enter. The crowds had to make their way through slow security searches and the corridor of fences that led to a single, small secondary gate—not the larger main entrance.

The Interior Ministry said the violence began when fans without tickets tried to force their way in. Another survivor, a 22-year-old Zamalek fan who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared retribution, said the crowd arrived more than three hours before the match. Fans were getting agitated by the slow security searches, and the police were getting nervous, he added.

Finally, police just shut the gate and allowed no one else to enter, and they beat some at the front with sticks, he added.

As the front part of the crowd turned back, others in the narrow corridor pressed forward, and the tear gas hit. Authorities said all 22 victims died of suffocation from tear gas and the stampede, according to Hesham Abdel-Hameed, a spokesman for the state's forensics agency.

WORLD BRIEFS

Explosion at chemical plant in eastern Ukraine sparks fire

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—A powerful explosion rocked a chemical plant and set it on fire Monday outside the separatist stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, where fierce fighting has surged despite a renewed diplomatic push for peace. In Washington, President Barack Obama held talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel about reviving an elusive Ukraine peace plan, a meeting that comes as she and French President Francois Hollande are getting ready to meet Wednesday with their counterparts from Russia and Ukraine. No casualties or damage were immediately reported from the huge blast at the plant in Donetsk, which the rebels said was hit by government shelling. The city lies in the middle of Ukraine's industrial heartland and explosions like this have long been feared.

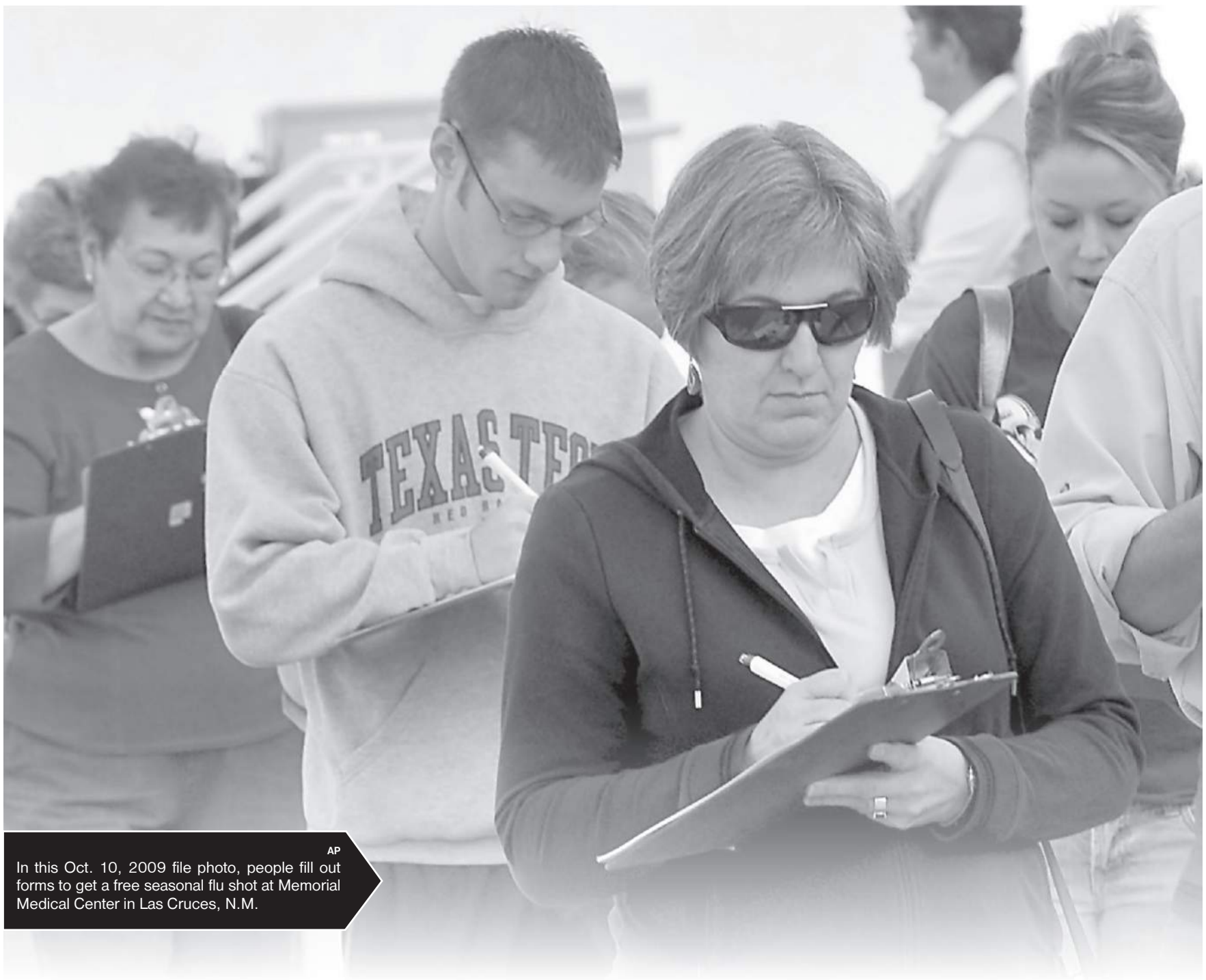
France and Morocco vow to fight terrorism together

PARIS (AP)—France and Morocco vowed to fight terrorism together and to fully cooperate on security issues, putting an end to a year of diplomatic discord. French President Francois Hollande and the king of Morocco, Mohammed VI, met in Paris on Monday to symbolize the reconciliation of the two countries. They praised "a new dynamic of trustful and ambitious cooperation" between the two nations in a written statement. France and Morocco officially ended a year of discord last month by re-establishing judicial cooperation. Those ties had been cut in February 2014 after French police attempted to arrest the visiting head of Moroccan intelligence in response to an activist lawsuit accusing him of torture.

Focus

Is your doctor's office the most dangerous place for data?

By TOM MURPHY and BRANDON BAILEY
AP BUSINESS WRITERS



AP
In this Oct. 10, 2009 file photo, people fill out forms to get a free seasonal flu shot at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, N.M.

Everyone worries about stolen credit cards or hacked bank accounts, but just visiting the doctor may put you at greater risk for identity fraud.

Those medical forms you give the receptionist and send to your health insurer provide fertile ground for criminals looking to steal your identity, since health care businesses can lag far behind banks and credit card companies in protecting sensitive information. The names, birthdates and—most importantly—Social Security numbers detailed on those forms can help hackers open fake credit lines, file false tax returns and create fake medical records.

"It's an entire profile of who you are," said Cynthia Larose, chair of the privacy and security practice at the law firm Mintz Levin in Boston. "It essentially allows someone to become you."

Social Security numbers were created to track the earnings history of workers in order to determine government benefits. Now, health care companies are, in some cases, required to collect the numbers by government agencies. They also use them because they are unique to every individual and more universal than other forms of identification like driver's licenses, said Dr. Ross Koppel, a University of Pennsylvania professor who researches health care information technology.

But once someone creates a stolen identity with a Social Security number, it can be hard to fix the damage. A person can call a bank to shut down a stolen credit card, but it's not as easy of a process when it comes to Social Security numbers.

"There is no such mechanism with Social Security numbers and our identity," said Avivah Litan, a cybersecurity analyst at the research firm Gartner. "You can't just call the bank and say, `Give me all the money they stole from my identity.' There's no one to call."

So being that the data is so vital to protect, health care companies are taking every precaution to defend against hackers, right?

Not necessarily. The FBI warned health care companies a year ago that their industry was not doing enough to resist cyberattacks, especially compared with companies in the financial and retail sectors, according to Christopher Budd of security software company Trend Micro. The warning came in a government bulletin to U.S. companies that cited research by a nonprofit security institute, he said.

Last year, more than 10 million people in the U.S. were affected by health care data breaches—including hacking or accidents that exposed personal information, such as lost laptops—according to a government database that tracks incidents affecting at least 500 people. That was the worst year for health care hacking since 2011.

Litan estimates that the health care industry is generally about 10 years behind the financial services sector in terms of protecting consumer information. She figures that it may be twice as easy for hackers to get sensitive financial information out of a health care company compared with a bank. Banks, for instance, are more likely to encrypt personal data, which can garble the information if a hacker gets ahold of it. They also are much more likely to use advanced statistical models and behavior analytics programs that can spot when someone's credit card use suddenly spikes, says Litan, who studies fraud-detection technology. That's a sign of possible fraud that may be worth investigating.

"There's a need for that everywhere now," she said.

Health care companies do have security to protect sensitive patient information. Anthem, the nation's second-largest health insurer, said last week that hackers broke into a database storing information on 80 million people, including Social Security numbers. The company had "multiple layers of security" in place before the attack, said David Damato, managing director at FireEye, the security company hired by Anthem to investigate the breach.

> *"Last year, more than 10 million people in the U.S. were affected by health care data breaches—including hacking or accidents that exposed personal information. …That was the worst year for health care hacking since 2011."*

But the stolen data was not encrypted. An Anthem spokeswoman said encryption wouldn't have helped, because the intruder used high-level security credentials to get into the company's system.

Still, several experts say encryption does help.

Encryption programs can be tuned so that even authorized users can view only one person's account, or a portion of an account record, at a time, said Martin Walter, senior director at cybersecurity firm RedSeal Networks. That makes it harder for an outsider to view or copy a whole stockpile of records.

Even if Anthem's security had proved invulnerable, the health care system offers several other inviting targets with varying levels of security. Hospitals, labs, clinics and doctor's offices all can be attacked. Cybersecurity experts say they expect even more health care hacking problems in the future as those layers of the health care system shift their paper files to electronic medical records, a push that has been boosted by federal funding in recent years.

"A lot of businesses that didn't place a premium on security are now placing this incredibly valuable information online," noted Al Pascual, director of fraud and security at the consulting firm Javelin Strategy & Research.

The experience of a big company like Anthem does not bode well for the broader health care industry, said Budd at Trend Micro.

"They have resources to throw at cyber security," he said. "And if someone with nearly unlimited resources can be breached like this, then it raises serious questions as to what's at risk."

Beth Knutsen still worries about someone using her Social Security number more than a year after she was told that some old patient files of hers had been taken from a doctor's office in Chicago. The 39-year-old New York resident visited that doctor nearly 20 years ago.

She's seen no signs of fraud yet, and she still provides her Social Security number when a doctor's office asks for it—but only because it seems to be required for insurance and billing.

"It's so scary," she said. "Who knows what can happen with that information?"

Good Housekeeping

Family is living large in a tiny house

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

When you look in your closets, cupboards and cubbies and shake your head at all the stuff you own and the dollars it cost you, you may think it would be lovely to live with less—much less.

The Tiny House Family does just that—they cook, bathe, sleep and relax in 168 square feet with two separate sleeping lofts—in southwestern Virginia. They claim it's liberating and rewarding, allowing them to have more time for each other and the things they love to do, like art, music and gardening.

The family—Karl and Hari Berzins, 46 and 41, respectively—like to share the good, the bad and the ugly of tiny house living during home and garden shows. The family also includes Ella, 12, and Archer, 10.

HARI BERZIN
Hari Berzin enjoys preparing meals in her tiny house kitchen.

"After losing our restaurant and house in the economic collapse of 2008, we decided to rebuild our lives in a deliberate way, one step at a time for cash," says Hari.

In February 2010, the couple bought three acres, and continued to save for their little house. They started building in June 2010, and moved in May 2011.

"This was a big step in our plan to design and build a debt-free homestead," she says.

The Berzins' tiny house measures 8-by-21 feet with lofts that have three feet of head space. The house has areas dedicated to office, living, dining, kitchen bathroom, bedroom and wardrobe. Appliances and fixtures include a 12-gallon hot water heater under the kitchen counter, apartment-sized range, large hood (which vents the house in minutes), under-counter refrigerator, built-in couch and shoe bench (both of which open up for storage), toilet, shower, hand sink and kitchen sink, according to Hari. Each family member has a cabinet for clothing. Windows and a full-light door help bring lots of natural light inside making a connection to the outdoors, she continues.

"We designed it the way we did so that we could live in it for as long as it takes us to build our main house on the property," says Hari, who maintains a blog about the house at www.tinyhousefamily.com . See a video of them and the tiny house at http://iamgenerationimage.nikonusa.com/profile/tiny-house .

"We're going on four years, and the main house will likely be done sometime in 2015."

Hari admits tiny house living is easier when kids are small.

"When the kids were younger, there was room enough for all of us on the couch," she says.

"Now, it's harder for us to comfortably watch a family movie. We still do it, but we're a big pile of uncomfortable.

Her favorite area is the kitchen with its simple tile-and-wood backsplash, wood counters and shelves. Two small windows next to the sink give her good views of the garden, where she grows much of what they eat.

Everything she uses daily is on display—herbs and spices in canning jars and flour and grains in clear containers.

"I love the floor-to-ceiling 4-inch shelving in the kitchen," she says.

"It holds all of our glasses, mugs, small dishes and wine bottles. It also makes it easy to purge. Sometimes, I sit on the couch and notice something we haven't used in a while. It ends up at our local thrift store."

Even though living in a tiny house is challenging, they wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

Slow-Flowing Drain

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: My bathroom sink drains pretty slowly, and fills up at least halfway when I'm brushing my teeth with the water running. I'm not sure if I should use a drain cleaner on it. What do you recommend?—Sara in Melbourne, Florida

A: Before taking the drain-cleaner route, try a couple of other things first. A slow-flowing bathroom sink drain's problem may be sitting right in front of you, at the bottom of the sink, with the stopper.

Most of today's standard bathroom sinks use a pop-up sink stopper, controlled by a push-pull rod behind and below the sink. The bottom of the stopper is typically attached to a control rod; this ensures that the stopper pops up far enough to allow a good, steady drain of water, and that it seals tightly when you want to fill the sink.

A couple of things can happen to the stopper over time: Hair and soap can get stuck at the bottom of the stopper, where the pivot rod attaches to it, causing a clog or slowdown. Or, the attachment to the pivot rod can break. Even if the stopper still pops up or closes, it may not be doing either very well.

So check your stopper first: grab it from the top with your index finger and thumb and pull gently upward. If it comes out easily, its attachment is likely broken. There's a great step-by-step guide at instructables (http://www.instructables.com/id/Fix-a-Sink-Stopper/) on replacing a pop-up stopper.

If the stopper is attached to the pivot rod, you can go ahead and check for a clog at the base. Dive under the sink and locate the pivot rod. This is a round metal rod jutting horizontally into the back of the drain pipe. It's held in place by a nut; loosen this nut and ease out the pivot rod. You may want to have a helper hold onto the stopper from above so that it doesn't fall flush into place, making it hard to get out. Once the rod is pulled back, lift out the stopper.

Clean the gunk from the bottom of the stopper; if you see more gunk in the area around where the pivot rod sits, try fishing out the clog using a wire hanger bent into a hook, or an old bottle brush, or feed a pipe snake to the spot and swirl it a couple of times.

Using a helper to position the stopper, move the pivot rod back into place and hand-tighten the nut. Run the water to see if the slow drain problem is fixed, making sure water doesn't leak from the pivot nut.

HOME TIP: To de-gunk a slow-flowing drain without drain cleaner, pour a tablespoon of baking soda into the drain followed by two tablespoons of white vinegar; let sit for a few minutes, then flush with hot water.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Walnut Chocolate-Chip Crumb Cake

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

This is a case of having your cake and eating it, too. One bite of this delightful treat and you'll be singing the praises of "common folk" healthy food just like my family does.

- 1 1/2 cups reduced-fat baking mix
- Sugar substitute to equal 1/2 cup sugar, suitable for baking
- 1/2 cup fat-free milk
- 2 tablespoons no-fat sour cream
- 1 egg or equivalent in egg substitute
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine baking mix and sugar substitute. Add milk, sour cream, egg and vanilla extract. Mix well to combine. Fold in chocolate chips and walnuts.

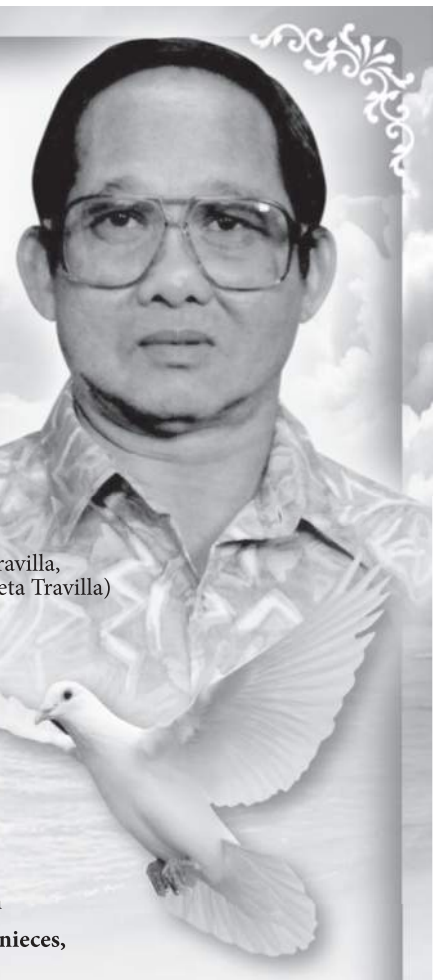
3. Evenly spread batter into prepared baking dish. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Place on a wire rack and let set at least 10 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

- *Each serving equals: 188 calories, 8g fat, 5g protein, 24g carb., 283mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Fat.*

In Celebration of His New Life

†Arturo Cabales Travilla

July 19, 1942 – February 09, 2015



In His New life, He now joins His:
Father: †Felix Travilla
Mother: †Jovita Cabales Travilla
Father In law: †Victor M. Baay
Mother In law: †Pacita I. Zantua

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:
Wife: Vilma Baay Travilla

Son and Grandchildren:

Felix Owen Baay Travilla (Jan-Nasia Jean Zandueta Travilla, Jenulyn Rose Zandueta Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo Zandueta Travilla)

Brothers & Sisters and In-Laws:
†Roberto Cabales /Crisanta Masocol Travilla
†Eliseo Cabales/Auro Reforma Travilla
Winefreda Travilla /†Robert Felix Strong
Lolita Travilla /Lorenzo Lim
†Leodegario Cabales/Alma Travilla
†Reynaldo Cabales /†Teresita Travilla

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-Law:
Noeme/†Miguel Eleazar — Victor Jr. /Josie Baay
Nenita/†Diosdado Tolentino — Nestor/Cristy Baay
Ruben/Linda Baay — Eleanor/Arnel Tan
Manuel/Bella Abrera — Merlyn/Louie San Juan

He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions for the repose of His soul are being celebrated daily at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Hi remain will lie in state at their residence in Afetnas and will be taken to San Antonio Church at 8:00 am. Responso Service will be at 8:15 am followed by Holy Rosary at 8;30 am. Mass Of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am and Interment Service will take place at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in Prayers,
Maraming Salamt Po, Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Vilma Baay Travilla, Felix Owen, Children and Family

Life & Style

Debate brews over whether Williams can survive controversy

NEW YORK (AP)—A vigorous debate over Brian Williams' future is brewing as "NBC Nightly News" aired Monday without the decade-long anchor.

Some critics suggest that Williams, who apologized last week for falsely claiming that he was in a helicopter that had been hit by a grenade while in Iraq in 2003, should be fired. Others wonder if commerce will win out, since Williams has kept "Nightly News" at the top of the ratings while much of his news division crumbled around him. How much are the years of good work worth?

"This is one of the toughest calls that I've ever seen," said Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University. "On the one hand, the public is right to expect nothing but the truth from our reporters and our news anchors."

Williams announced Saturday he was stepping away from the show for a few days. NBC News, which launched an internal probe, hasn't given a timetable for how long its look into Williams' statements, coordinated by the division's investigative editor Richard Esposito, will take or if its report will be made public.

Williams' sub, Lester Holt, told viewers midway through Monday's broadcast that Williams had taken himself off the air because questions have been raised about how he recalled several stories. Holt did not specify what the stories or questions were.

"He'll be off while this issue is dealt with," Holt said.

Levinson pointed out that this isn't a case of someone deliberately inventing news sources or, in the case of Dan Rather at CBS a decade ago, reporting during a presidential campaign a

Williams

story casting doubt on President George W. Bush's wartime record that could not be backed up.

"The real difficulty for a news organization, or a reporter, is that once you've made one misstep, it's really hard to earn (trust) back," said David Westin, former ABC News president. "You can. But it takes a lot of time."

The incident should remind news organizations that it's more important to report the news than "brand" their personalities, he said.

More than 1,000 comments were posted to NBC's "Nightly News" Facebook page. The majority supported Williams, with some posters suggesting they wouldn't watch the broadcast until he returned. But some commenters said they wouldn't trust him again.

Williams took a pounding in the ratings for his final night on the air Friday, but it's unclear whether the drop in viewership was related to the controversy.

The Nielsen ratings company said ABC's "World News Tonight" had 8.46 million viewers on Friday, while NBC's "Nightly News" had just under 8 million.

For this television season as a whole, Williams' newscast has led in the ratings by an average of roughly 600,000 viewers each night over ABC.

On Thursday, the night after Williams' apology, NBC beat ABC by about 800,000 viewers, Nielsen said.

Although NBC leads in the ratings this season as it has for much of the past decade, ABC's broadcast with David Muir does win occasional nights. ABC has beaten NBC on nine nights since the beginning of the TV season in September, six of them Friday nights, which in general is NBC's weakest evening. On the Friday before Williams made his admission, ABC won by 400,000 viewers.

Meanwhile, another instance emerged of Williams appearing to embellish a wartime reporting experience.

Williams traveled to Israel in July 2006 to cover that country's military campaign against Hezbollah. The anchor reported on MSNBC that he flew in a Black Hawk helicopter with Israeli military officials at a height of 1,500 feet. He said he saw a trail of smoke and dust where Katyusha rockets had landed in the uninhabited Israeli countryside. Then, he said he witnessed two rockets being launched toward Israel some 6 miles from where he was flying, according to the network transcript.

In an interview at Fairfield University more than a year later, Williams said Katyusha rockets passed "just underneath the helicopter I was riding in," according to a film of the interview, described in The Washington Post on Monday.

Williams was even more descriptive in an August 2006 appearance with Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

"Here's a view of rockets I have never seen, passing underneath us, 1,500 feet beneath us," Williams said. "And we've got the gunner doors on this thing, and I'm saying to the general, some four-star, `It wouldn't take much for them to adjust the aim and try to do a ring toss right through our open doors, would it?'"

Also Monday, the newspaper Stars and Stripes released a transcript of its interview with Williams last week, made before his apology, in which he attempted to explain his story. Williams was asked about a claim by military involved in the 2003 Iraq mission that his helicopter was flying about an hour behind the Chinook helicopter that had been hit by the rocket-propelled grenade.

Williams said it was the first he'd heard of that.

"I could not see in front of us, and I thought we were just in one flotilla, for lack of a better word," he said.

Investigators seek phone records from Jenner, other drivers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheriff's investigators on Monday were contacting Bruce Jenner and other drivers involved in a fatal chain-reaction crash in Southern California to ask for access to their cellphone records, authorities said.

They're trying to determine if distracted driving played a role in Saturday's four-vehicle crash on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu.

Such a request has become routine in collisions where someone is killed, Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks said.

A publicist for Jenner said the Olympic gold medalist was not texting while driving and the evidence will show that.

Alan Nierob said late Sunday that investigators had not yet requested Jenner's cellphone records but Jenner will provide them if they do.

Jenner was driving a black Cadillac Escalade when he rear-ended a Lexus sedan. The sedan had already slammed into a Toyota Prius that had slowed or stopped on the highway, sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks said.

After it was hit by Jenner's Cadillac, the Lexus veered into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a black Hummer. The driver of the Lexus—Kim Howe, 69, of Calabasas—died at the scene.

California Department of Motor Vehicle records showed Howe's license had expired in 2007. Brooks said Monday investigators have not yet looked into that, but that it probably won't be a key issue since she was killed.

AP

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies stands guard near the remains of a car crash where one person was killed and at least seven others injured, in Malibu Calif.

In his first comments since Saturday's crash, Jenner called the wreck a "devastating tragedy" and vowed to cooperate with investigators.

"My heartfelt and deepest sympathies go out to the family and loved ones, and to all of those who were involved or injured in this terrible accident," Jenner said in a statement Sunday evening. "It is a devastating tragedy. I cannot pretend to imagine what this family is going through at this time. I am praying for them."

The moment of impact was captured by celebrity photographers, who quickly posted the images on the Internet. The photos show the white Lexus mangled in the front and back, facing the Hummer, which had a heavily damaged engine and its hood popped open. Jenner's Escalade, which was pulling an off-road vehicle on a trailer, had a damaged front end.

Though paparazzi often trail Jenner, there was no indication he was being chased by photographers at the time of the crash, authorities said.

Sheriff's investigators will examine photographs of the crash. They also were seeking witnesses, and any photos or videos from bystanders, including paparazzi, in what's expected to be a months-long investigation, Brooks said.

Jenner passed a field sobriety test and voluntarily submitted a blood sample to determine whether he was intoxicated, authorities said.

The sheriff's department has custody of all the vehicles involved and will be inspecting them to ensure they are mechanically sound or whether a defect prevented somebody from stopping in time.

Information gleaned from the cellphone records could help inform prosecutors, if they were to consider charges against any of the drivers.

However, Brooks said it is difficult to determine if a driver was texting at the exact time of a collision. Investigators will look at signs of driver behavior such as multiple texts that span a period leading up to, or including, the crash, Brooks said.

The crash comes at a time of widespread talk that Jenner, 65, is becoming a woman. Though Jenner has declined to publicly comment, his appearance has gradually become more traditionally feminine.

Former rap mogul 'Suge' Knight to stay jailed in murder case

COMPTON, Calif. (AP)—Marion "Suge" Knight will remain behind bars for the next six weeks in a murder case while lawyers prepare for a hearing that prosecutors said Monday could include evidence of other crimes.

Knight is currently charged with murder, attempted murder and hit-and-run after he struck two men in a Compton parking lot during a Jan. 29 confrontation. His lawyers say the men were struck by accident as Knight tried to escape an attack.

The decision to keep him jailed came at a hearing that also shed light on Knight's hospitalization last week after he pleaded not guilty.

Knight

His attorney, David Kenner, said the co-founder of Death Row Records passed out and had serious breathing problems after his arraignment.

He didn't elaborate but said he doesn't think his client is receiving adequate care.

"Right now we're at the mercy of what the Los Angeles County jail decides is appropriate or not appropriate," Kenner said in court.

Knight sat with his head cocked to the side during much of the hearing convened to discuss possible bail.

A prosecutor and Knight's attorneys sought a delay to prepare for the next hearing, which Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes said might include evidence of a "very large stack of uncharged crimes."

She declined to elaborate.

Kenner said he had not seen any details but is not worried. He expects to challenge the claims in court and "make sure what we're getting is the truth."

Knight, 49, is due back in court on March 20. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Knight politely responded yes when Barnes asked Monday whether he approved of a delay in his case to give both sides time to prepare for the bail review hearing.

In another matter, Superior Court Judge Richard Ocampo denied a request to allow Knight to be evaluated by his personal physician. Doctors with the county jail system were adequate to treat Knight, and his attorney should give them information about Knight's ailments, the judge said.

Kenner said he would file details about his client's health under seal. But he noted after the hearing that he doesn't think Knight should have been discharged from the hospital.

Last year, doctors found a blood clot in Knight's chest after he passed out at a Las Vegas jail, where he was being held on a robbery charge filed in Los Angeles, Kenner said outside court.

His attorneys at the time said the clot was related to Knight being shot six times in August at a nightclub.

'Better Call Saul' sparks excitement in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—New Mexico's largest city is back to being featured in another television show more than a year after the end of AMC-TV series "Breaking Bad."

"Better Call Saul" premiered Sunday, and city officials hope the prequel to the hit series sparks more interest in Albuquerque after "Breaking Bad" spawned tours, sales of novelty items and even a political ad during the last election.

More than 100 fans showed up for a premiere "Better Call Saul" viewing party at an Albuquerque brewery, and more such gatherings are scheduled for the remainder of the season. One lawyer, Ron Bell, who some speculate the show's main character is loosely based on, has a billboard advertising "Better Call Bell."

Already the city's visitors' bureau has created a website to help tourists find Albuquerque sites from the show.

New Mexico's new Attorney General Hector Balderas even thumbed out a tweet during the show to let its main star, Bob Odenkirk, know that the state's top cop was watching him. "Hey (at)BetterCallSaul (at)mrbobodenkirk, know that the Attorney General of New Mexico will be keeping an eye on you this evening," Balderas wrote.

"Better Call Saul" follows a struggling criminal lawyer born Jimmy McGill, who later changes his name to Saul Goodman, as he defends drug lords, petty criminals and those allegedly injured in traffic accidents.

In "Breaking Bad," Odenkirk played the lawyer of methamphetamine lord Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston.

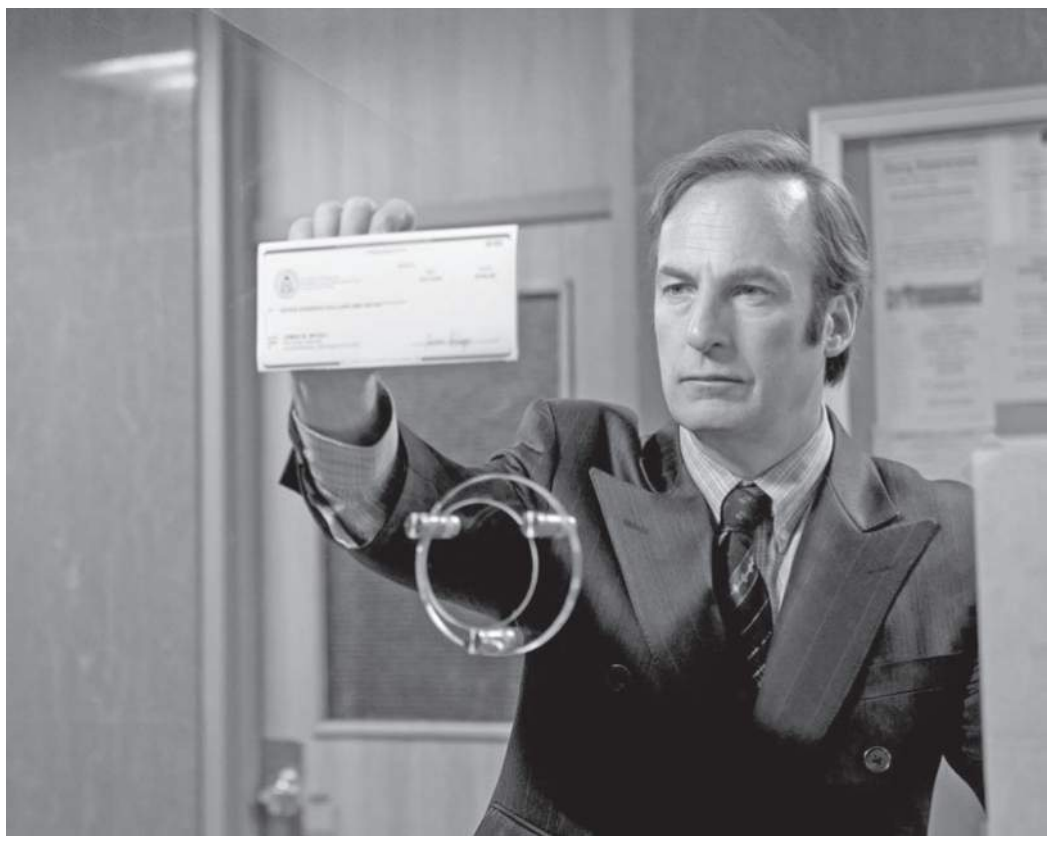
Tania Armenta, a vice president for the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau, said interest in "Breaking Bad" Albuquerque sites has not slowed, and they remain particularly popular with European tourists. City officials expect even more interest with "Better Call Saul."

"Definitely loving the buzz," Armenta said. "Most of the buzz we are seeing is positive."

Armenta said the show's creators haven't revealed much, so when Albuquerque sites are shown city officials update the website, http://visitalbuquerque.org/bettercallsaul .

"We need it really bad," said Debbie Ball, owner of The Candy Lady store, who sells blue "Breaking Bad" fake meth treats and offers limousine tours of scenes from the first series. "I think it's going to help the city."

And will she try to benefit from the new show's popularity? "If I can figure out how I can do it tactfully," Ball said, "I will do it."



AP

In this image released by AMC, Bob Odenkirk portrays Saul Goodman in a scene from "Better Call Saul."

'Moesha' actor Paulk gets 1 year probation on Arizona DUI charge

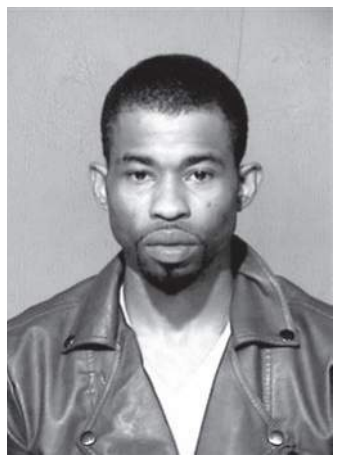
PHOENIX (AP)—A former child star on the 1990s sitcom "Moesha" who was arrested in Arizona on suspicion of drunken driving has been sentenced to a year of unsupervised probation.

Maricopa County Superior Court officials say 28-year-old Marcus Paulk pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor count of DUI.

Sheriff's officials say Paulk was stopped in suburban Scottsdale early on the morning of the Super Bowl. They say he drove "dangerously close" to a fire truck and two police cars that were stopped with their emergency lights flashing.

The arresting officer reported that Paulk smelled of alcohol and had a bag of marijuana in his pocket.

Paulk lives in California. He's best known for his role on the UPN sitcom "Moesha," which ran from 1996 to 2001 and featured pop star Brandy.



AP

This Sunday, Feb.1, 2015 booking photo provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office shows actor Marcus Paulk, 28, after his arrest in Ariz.

AMC's 'Better Call Saul' debuts with 6.9 million viewers

NEW YORK (AP)—Better call "Saul" a promising new hit.

Sunday's premiere of "Better Call Saul" was seen by 6.9 million viewers, according to the Nielsen ratings company. AMC network is calling this the biggest series premiere in cable history.

The much-anticipated drama is a prequel to the AMC hit "Breaking Bad," whose shifty lawyer played by supporting actor Bob Odenkirk has now moved into the central role.

"Saul" had help with its robust tune-in. In the preceding hour, "The Walking Dead" returned for the second half of its fifth season with an enormous audience of 15.6 million viewers.

The second episode of "Better Call Saul" airs Monday at 10 p.m. EST.

Fans, residents hold vigil for Bobbi Kristina Brown

RIVERDALE, Ga. (AP)—Lighting candles, shining flashlights and tilting their glowing cellphones toward the sky, hundreds of people gathered in suburban Atlanta on Monday night to pray for the late Whitney Houston's daughter, who is fighting for her life in a hospital after being found face-down in a bathtub late last month.

"Shining a Light for Healing for Bobbi Kristina Brown" was held at the Riverdale Town Center amphitheater south of Atlanta, a venue that Brown's father, singer Bobby Brown, christened as its first performer in 2010, said event organizer Corey Punzi, the city's marketing specialist.

Bobbi Brown is the only child between Bobby Brown and Houston. Her relatives have said she is "fighting for her life" at an Atlanta hospital.

Police, citing an ongoing investigation, have not disclosed many details of the circumstances in which Brown was found. Houston was also found unresponsive in a bathtub on Feb. 11, 2012, and later died.

Riverdale Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon was among those who sang gospel hymns on stage, as members of the crowd sang and danced along.

Several vigil speakers touched on the struggles and scrutiny Brown's family has faced in recent years, comparing them to their own trials and tribulations.

"They bleed and hurt like us," Wynn-Dixon told the crowd before singing the gospel song "There's a leak in this old building."

Brian and Poco Reese, both 52, of Johns Creek, Georgia, said they would make the roughly 40-mile drive back home feeling refreshed, uplifted and hopeful for Bobbi Kristina's recovery.

"We just continue to pray that the Lord does his will and whatever that may be for Bobbi Kristina's life on Earth, we don't know that," Brian Reese said.

"We watched her grow over the years. We love her," Poco Reese added. "You know, with everything she's gone through, with everything she's endured, we love her even more."

Wife is wavering over offer to repair broken marriage

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 25 years. My husband, "Frank," and I have four children. Over the years our relationship became rocky—almost toxic. Frank is an alcoholic, verbally abusive and a manipulator. (I admit I'm no angel, either.)

Eight months ago, I had an affair with a former boyfriend I dated before I was married, and we got caught. Frank planted a tape recorder in my car, hacked my phone and read my texts on his phone. He threw me out of the house, my belongings placed in black garbage bags.

My boyfriend has divorced his wife, moved here and has made a life and a future for us. He has sacrificed a lot for me, and I feel bad that I'm thinking about going back to Frank. I miss my home and family.

Frank begs me to return every day. He claims he has stopped drinking and changed his ways. He wants us to go to counseling and promises to be a better husband if I give him another chance.

I'm scared, but a little piece of me wants to see if it's true. I have heard stories about how men can't change, that it will be worse if I go home and I'll be in a sort of jail and have no freedom. Please help me.

IN PAIN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR IN PAIN: If "a little piece" of you wants to reunite with your husband, then level with your lover. Your marriage may or may not be able to be repaired. However, if you're willing to try, understand it will take hard work on the part of both you and Frank, AND the help of a marriage counselor—IF Frank can maintain his sobriety.

You say you are worried you will lose your freedom if you go back. It is important you recognize that trust takes a long time to be rebuilt, that the attempt at reconciliation is a gamble, and whether your marriage can survive the mess the two of you have made of it isn't assured.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When my boyfriend takes me out to dinner, he always expects sex afterward. I am OK with it because he's a nice guy. But he never says "thank you" when we're done.

Other than his manners, he's great and I'm happy we're together. Am I being petty and overly sensitive? My first husband never thanked me either or appreciated me, so I guess it's a sore spot. How should I approach this without jeopardizing everything else?

HESITANT TO SPEAK UP

DEAR HESITANT: Sex is not supposed to be "payment" because someone picks up a dinner check. If that's what is happening with you and your boyfriend, it is being approached with the wrong attitude.

A person is not expected to thank a partner for having sex, unless the sex was unusually spectacular. Because you feel otherwise, tell your boyfriend what your needs are—and if he agrees to thank you, return the compliment by thanking HIM.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

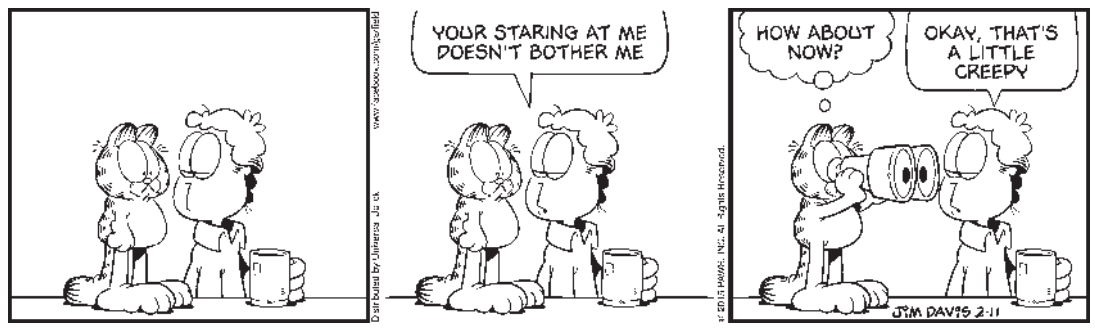
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK AT THIS HILARIOUS CARTOON I DREW!
SEE, THIS SNOWMAN IS IN A SNOW CAR AND HE SAYS, "DARN IT, THE ENGINE FROZE UP!" HA HA HA HA! GET IT??
BUT IF THE CAR IS MADE OF SNOW, THE ENGINE WOULD MELT IF IT WASN'T FROZEN. EITHER WAY, IT WOULDN'T RUN

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I NEED SOME DRAWING BOOKS, STAT.
IF I'M GONNA BE AS GOOD AS JENNY BRINDLE, I'M GONNA NEED TO PRACTICE. A LOT.
MAYBE I COULD TAKE LESSONS? I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS DRAWING.
A MEATBALL SANDWICH ON A HOAGIE?
SEE? IT'S DAD NAPPING ON THE COUCH!
CLOSE ENOUGH.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

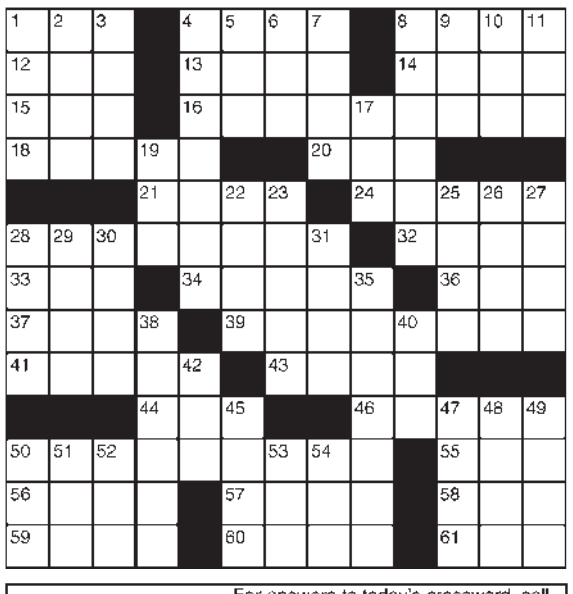
ACROSS
1 Soothing place to spend a day
4 Canadian flag emblem
8 Rowing team
12 Fleur-de- —
13 Drive on
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Laila of "We Need to Talk"
16 Buck
18 Confuse
20 Muumuu accessory
21 Roster
24 AMPAS award
28 Anti-oxidant beverage
32 Oliver Twist's request
33 No longer stylish
34 Dresses (in)
36 Huge amt. of moola
37 Belgrade resident
39 First Super Bowl winners
41 Spartan slave
43 Aviation prefix
44 Affirmative
46 Border
50 1990 Depardieu movie
55 Existed
56 Llama land
57 Destroy
58 Back talk
59 State with conviction
60 Rad. x 2
61 Crafty

DOWN
1 Thick chunk
2 Heap
3 "Ain't gonna happen!"
4 Pulling along
5 Blunder
6 Mellow
7 Sense
8 Picasso's movement
9 Genetic matter
10 Series-ending abbr.
11 Moo goo gai pan pan
17 "The Matrix" role
19 Bullring bravo
22 Unescorted
23 — firma
25 Barbershop prop
26 Met melody
27 Hinge (on)
28 "Gee!"
29 Hold sway over
30 Cousin of 10-Down
31 Busy as —
35 Feudal system
38 Lecherous observer
40 Neither mate
42 X rating?
45 Desert Storm missile
47 Piercing tools
48 Carrier's load
49 Catch sight of
50 Transcript no.
51 Clerical address, for short
52 Before
53 Singer DiFranco
54 Nutritional meas.

Solution time: 23 mins.

W	H	I	P	■	O	V	U	M	■	S	A	W
H	E	R	A	■	P	O	S	E	■	A	K	A
O	R	A	N	G	U	T	A	N	■	M	I	N
■	■	■	D	O	S	E	■	T	W	A	N	G
C	A	C	A	O	■	■	C	H	A	H	■	■
C	O	H	S	■	B	R	O	O	D	I	N	G
A	N	A	■	F	I	N	A	L	■	T	E	E
T	E	R	M	I	N	A	L	■	D	A	R	N
■	■	L	A	R	D	■	■	C	A	N	O	E
S	P	A	D	E	■	A	S	H	Y	■	■	■
C	A	T	■	M	A	N	I	A	T	T	A	N
A	G	A	■	A	C	N	E	■	O	H	I	O
K	E	N	■	N	E	E	D	■	N	E	R	D

Yesterday's answer 2-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Lautner, 23; Kelly Rowland, 34; Jennifer Aniston, 46; Sheryl Crow, 53.

Happy Birthday: Make a motion to wheel and deal as much as possible. You'll make progress where pending financial, legal or medical matters are concerned. Collect on old debts and take on new projects that will allow you to use your skills in unique ways. An unusual approach to whatever you pursue will attract interest. Balance and integrity will help you out mentally, physically and monetarily. Your numbers are 7, 11, 13, 27, 30, 32, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make whatever changes are necessary to improve your standard of living. A residential move or personal investment will help you reach your financial goals. Deal with institutions, corporations or government agencies to get all your paperwork in order. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): What you do to help those in need will result in satisfaction and high returns. A romantic relationship will lead to a much closer bond if handled with care. Your determination will be enough to win favors and improve your reputation. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stand your ground and refuse to let anyone limit your dreams. Avoid individuals who pass responsibilities your way or try to guilt you into doing more than your share. A change of plans will leave you stranded. Emotional ultimatums can be expected. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't stop until you reach your destination. Network and socialize with your peers and you will be offered an opportunity. Change should be welcomed with open arms. Share your ideas with someone special, and your relationship will flourish. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel and check out real estate or an activity that intrigues you. You will learn from the people you encounter. A change in the way you do things or the way you live will be beneficial. Greater prosperity is heading your way. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Delegate jobs to someone you trust. You have more to offer than you realize, and if you partner with someone who is just as able as you, there is no limit to what you can achieve. Thrive on change and it will impress onlookers. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do the best job possible. A good idea can turn into a lucrative endeavor. Strive for perfection and uniqueness, and you will receive recognition. A romantic tie to someone special will ease your mind and boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Catch up on domestic duties or make personal improvements. What you have to offer will change someone's opinion of you. A change of plans will give you more time to enjoy your favorite pastimes. Romance and sharing will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Fight for your rights and stand up to criticism. Do your own thing and give others the same option and privilege. Someone you least expect will have something important to contribute. Offer positive suggestions and ask pertinent questions. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on the present and put the past behind you. Check out new opportunities and take advantage of what's being offered. Get in touch with someone who has something to contribute, and you will develop a prosperous partnership. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A spiritual, physical or emotional trip will pay off. Get involved in conversations that will help you understand your current situation. An uncertainty you face will be cleared up, allowing you the chance to move ahead with your plans. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Money, settlements or legal contracts should be dealt with responsibly. A relationship will be enhanced by a decision you make. A change to your standard of living will help you accomplish your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, intense and dramatic. You are whimsical and spiritual.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				2				
			6	3	1		7	4
4		9				6		1
2		4				5		6
5	6						3	8
	8						1	
		7				3		
		5	8		3	2		
			7	9	6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	3	5	9	6	8	1	2
6	8	2	3	1	7	9	4	5
1	9	5	8	4	2	3	6	7
3	2	9	6	7	8	4	5	1
7	6	1	9	5	4	2	3	8
8	5	4	1	2	3	6	7	9
2	1	7	4	6	9	5	8	3
5	4	8	2	3	1	7	9	6
9	3	6	7	8	5	1	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/10

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING 'FRIENDS' (TV SHOW) **Solution: 11 letters**

C	G	E	L	L	E	R	A	T	R	A	M	R	S	N
A	U	S	R	I	T	R	I	B	B	I	A	N	I	A
C	N	P	O	S	Ⓑ	D	J	X	O	C	T	E	T	T
I	T	I	S	A	Ⓘ	E	I	N	H	T	T	C	C	T
N	H	H	S	V	Ⓝ	R	L	E	Y	E	L	I	O	A
O	E	S	A	T	Ⓖ	A	L	E	S	O	E	N	M	H
M	R	D	Y	S	O	L	K	U	V	F	B	A	C	N
R	Y	N	B	P	C	N	O	E	E	U	L	J	R	A
E	E	E	B	E	O	H	P	A	F	N	A	U	A	M
L	N	I	O	M	E	E	W	F	R	N	N	D	N	A
D	T	R	B	E	R	A	A	I	K	Y	C	Y	E	T
N	R	F	F	R	R	Y	D	E	M	O	C	E	E	T
A	U	F	Y	D	S	E	T	A	M	M	O	O	R	H
H	O	E	L	O	R	E	F	I	N	N	E	J	G	E
C	C	N	A	M	F	F	U	A	K	U	D	R	O	W

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 2/11

Aniston, Award, Bing, Bobby, Buffay, Chandler, Coffeehouse, Comedy, Courtney, Cox, Crane, David, Friendships, Funny, Geller, Green, Gunther, Janice, Jennifer, Jill, Joey, Judy, Kauffman, Kudrow, Lisa, Love, Manhattan, Marta, Matthew, Matt LeBlanc, Monica, Monkey, Perry, Phoebe, Rachel, Role, Roommates, Ross, Schwimmer, Sitcom, Tribbiani

Yesterday's Answer: Encounter

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/ embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Multi tasking. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com

LEAVING ISLAND SALE

2015 RAV 4. 4WD. Automatic. Call for deatails. 989-1126

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT SERVCIES

Do you want your money to grow?? Let Premiere Capital Investments, LLC. get you there. Specializing in stocks and options investments. Call Wallace at (670) 484-4071 or (671) 687-5863 and invest NOW!!

Job Vacancy Announcement

Rong Hua Corporation dba: 02 Spa

(2) Masseuse

3 years' experience - Salary $6.05/hr

Interested applicants may call 233-4825, 285-8018 or mail resume to PMB 698 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

masterpiece
CREATIVITY LIVES HERE

PUBLICIST/MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Advertising agency is in search of a dynamic, Saipan-based Publicist/Marketing Executive to join our Saipan office. In the area of public relations, the successful Candidate must possess excellent written and oral communications skills, as well as expertise in the areas of media relations and placements, interview coordination and executive coaching. In their Marketing capacity, the successful Candidate will serve as liaison between agency and client. This will require superior organizational skills in order to handle a high volume of workflow and translate the agency's work to other executives and departments within the organization, as well as to local vendors.

Minimum Bachelor of Arts in Marketing, Communications or Public Relations required. Salary & Benefits commensurate with experience. If interested, email cover letter and resume along with salary requirements to getcreative@masterpieceadvertising.com.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities for at least 2 years. Must be computer literate in Microsoft Word and Email. With experience in preparing of reports and schedules for sports activities and with good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 23, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR

- Must pass NCLEX – RN
- Current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- At least two years' experience in hemodialysis and one year experience as a charge nurse in dialysis
- English language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit a resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 02/11/2015 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call our HR Office at (670) 234-2903 ext. 128.

Oxford Institute Academy, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Operations Manager
(2) Music Teachers

$6.50/hour to $15.00/hour

- Must have 5 years' experience
- Able to play Piano & Violin
- College Graduade

If interested, send resume to PMB 365 Box 10000 or email reginasaipan@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded**

FEATURES:
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Full time Administrative Assistant:

Essential competencies
1. Communications
2. Organizatonal Skills
3. Computers: Data Base management

Qualifications
High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in data entry and customer service. Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 13th, 2015.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: nmibon@gmail.com

Marianas Management Corporation
is currently seeking for
AC TECHNICIAN
Interested applicants may send resume to hrd3@joeten.com or may pick up an application at Joeten Susupe Bldg., 2nd Floor
Marianas Management Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

WHATZIT Solution: Dead end

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

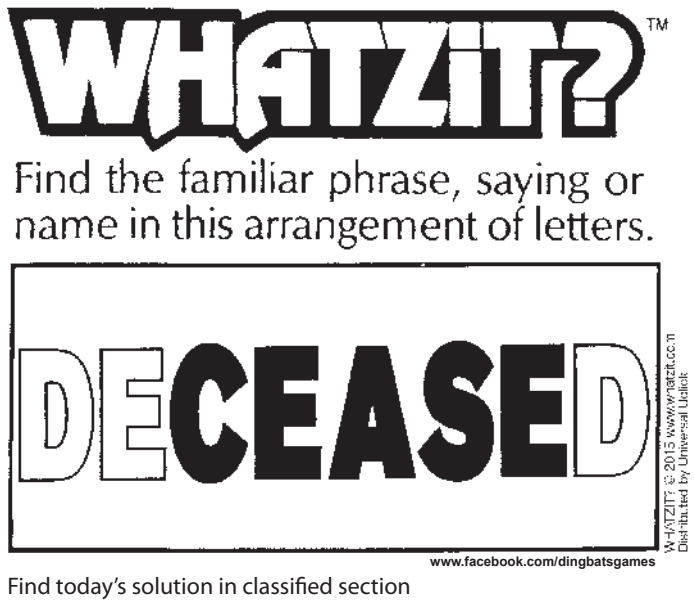
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Popovich earns win No. 1,000 as Spurs get past Pacers, 95-93

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Gregg Popovich's grand plan has produced plenty of wins.

The Spurs made it an even 1,000 for him on Monday night.

San Antonio rallied from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit and got an 18-foot baseline jumper from Marco Belinelli with 2.1 seconds left to give Popovich a milestone 95-93 victory at Indiana.

"I've been here a long time and I've had good players. That's the formula," Popovich said. "Getting the players is difficult, but I've been fortunate to have good ones. The time, that's the most important element. You have to be around for a while I guess."

Popovich celebrated in his typical low-key way. He walked to midcourt, putt an arm around Pacers coach Frank Vogel, hugged one of his former players and stoically strolled into the Spurs' locker room though he later acknowledged he might drink some wine.

While Popovich does have five NBA championships, few midseason wins have come with this much fanfare.

Only two coaches, Phil Jackson and Pat Riley, reached 1,000 wins faster than Popovich. Only one other coach, Jerry Sloan, achieved the feat with one team. Sloan won 1,127 games with Utah. Popovich is 1,000-462 in 19 NBA seasons, all with San Antonio.

His regular-season winning percentage (.684) ranks fifth all time. His playoff winning percentage is seventh (.623) though only two men in front of him coached more than 100 postseason games, Jackson and Billy Cunningham.

And it came on the most fitting stage of all for the Indiana native. Popovich was born in northwest Indiana and grew up playing high school basketball in Merrillville, Indiana.

But it was Popovich's players who wanted this win most—and it showed as they erased a nine-point deficit over the final 5 1/2 minutes.

Belinelli finally tipped the game with his jumper just before the shot clock expired, and George Hill's 3-pointer for the win bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

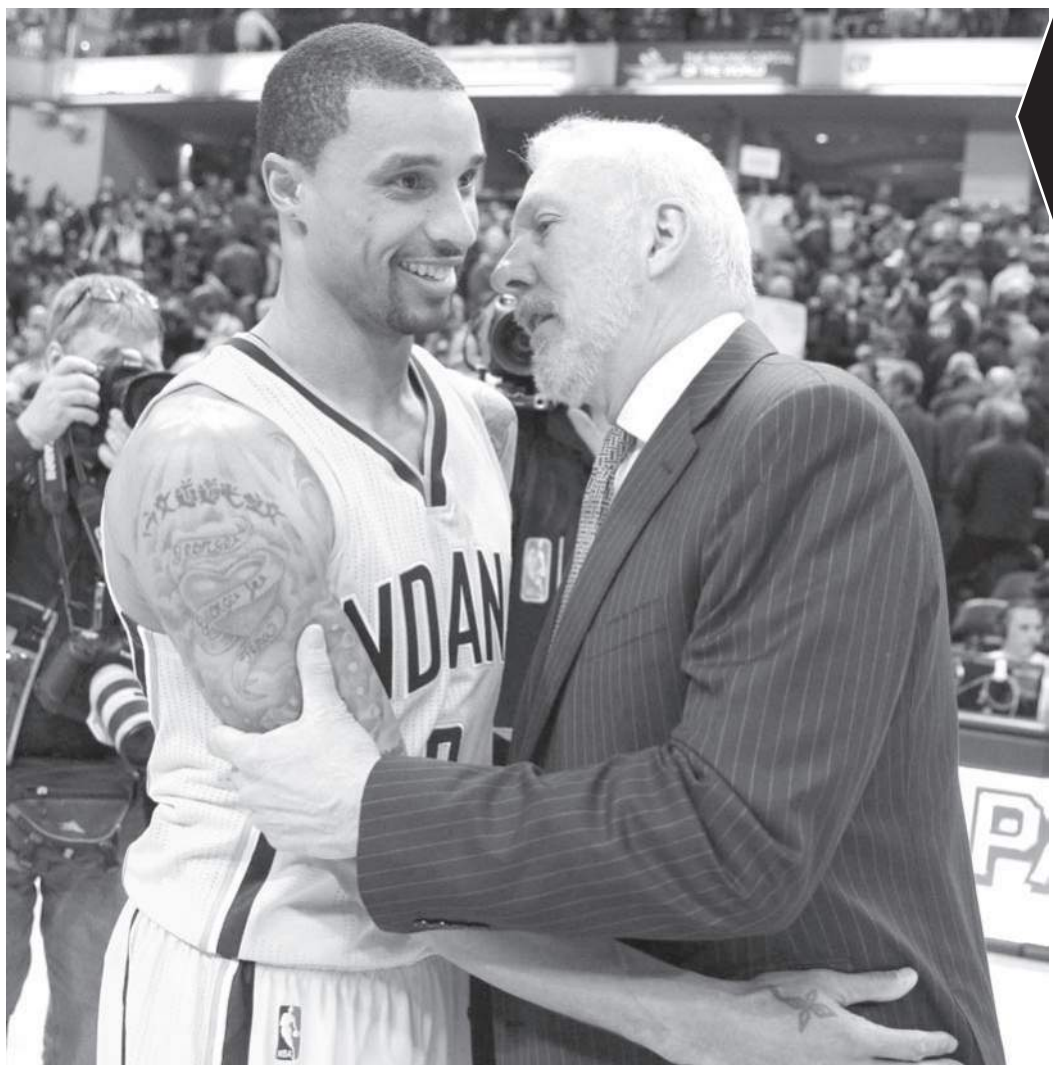
"A thousand wins, that's a lot of wins and I feel very lucky that I've been with him for a lot of them," Tony Parker said after scoring 19 points. "We've experienced so much stuff together. I'm just very happy for him."

Popovich played this one with some caution.

After Sunday night's loss in Toronto, he deactivated Manu Ginobili and carefully tracked the minutes of Parker and Tim Duncan. Parker and Duncan, who had 15 points and eight rebounds, each played 30 minutes, 23 seconds and didn't enter the fourth quarter until just before the closing run began.

"We just weren't solid enough down the stretch and gave them too many extra possessions," Pacers forward David West said. "We're disappointed we let this game get away."

West finished with 10 points and a season-high 18 rebounds for Indiana. Rodney Stuckey had 19 points as the Pacers' three-game winning streak came to an end.



AP
Indiana Pacers' George Hill (3) congratulates San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich following an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, in Indianapolis.

Thunder 124, Nuggets 114

In Denver, Kevin Durant scored 40 points and Russell Westbrook had 26 as Oklahoma City beat Denver to hand the Nuggets their sixth loss in a row.

Durant matched a career best by hitting seven 3-pointers and finished 13 of 19 from the floor. Mitch McGary added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

The Nuggets, who have lost 13 of 14, were led by Wilson Chandler's 23 points. Kenneth Faried and Ty Lawson each added 22 for Denver, which also lost its sixth straight at home—its longest home skid since dropping seven in a row at the Pepsi Center from Feb. 6 to March 2, 2003.

Trailing by 14 at halftime, the Nuggets scored the first nine points of the third quarter to pull to 73-68. But Westbrook countered with a 3 to spark a 13-3 burst that put the Thunder back in front by 15.

Warriors 89, 76ers 84

In Philadelphia, Stephen Curry scored 20 points and Leandro Barbosa had 16 off the bench as Golden State snapped Philadelphia's four-game home winning streak.

Klay Thompson and former Sixer Andre Iguodala added 13 points apiece for the Warriors (41-9), who have won four of five and two straight after opening their four-game road trip with a loss to the Hawks on Friday.

Robert Covington scored 21 points to pace the 76ers (12-41), who committed 27 turnovers and shot 7 for 24 from 3-point range. Luc Mbah a Moute had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Golden State, the NBA's second-best 3-point shooting team, shot just 7 for 29 from behind the arc.

Hawks 117, Timberwolves 105

In Minnaepolis, Al Horford scored a season-high 28 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and DeMarre Carroll added a career-best 26 points to lift Atlanta over Minnesota.

Paul Millsap had 19 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Hawks (43-10), who bounced back from a loss to Memphis the previous night. The NBA-leading Hawks still have not lost back-to-back games since Nov. 18. They shot 51 percent and outscored Minnesota 58-44 in the paint.

Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Shabazz Muhammad had 18 points and eight rebounds in his first game since Jan. 9 because of a strained oblique for Minnesota. The Timberwolves lost for the first time in four games.

Wizards 96, Magic 80

In Washington, John Wall fell one point short of his first triple-double of the season, and Marcin Gortat had 14 points and 14 rebounds as Washington beat Orlando to sweep the season series.

Wall hit a 3-pointer early in the third quarter—the first shot made from beyond the arc by either team—to open an 11-0 run that put Washington in control. He wound up with nine points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds after missing a floater with about 50 seconds left.

The Wizards have won two in a row following a five-game losing streak. They went 4-0 against the Magic this season and have won the past eight matchups.

Evan Fournier scored 18 for Orlando, which is 1-2 under interim coach James Borrego. Overall, the Magic have lost 12 of 13.

Heat 109, Knicks 95

In Miami, Chris Bosh scored 32 points and Mario Chalmers added 18 as Miami pulled away from New York.

Luol Deng and Norris Cole each scored 12 for the Heat, who posted their biggest comeback win of the season after trailing by 14 early.

Carmelo Anthony scored 26 points for the Knicks, who became the first NBA team this season to be guaranteed of finishing with a losing record. Anthony left in the fourth quarter to get his knee re-taped, but never returned.

The Heat outscored New York 32-18 in the fourth.

Miami again was without Dwyane Wade, still sidelined by a strained hamstring.

Bucks 103, Nets 97

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton scored 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter as Milwaukee rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat Brooklyn.

Jared Dudley had 19 points for Milwaukee, which won its fifth straight home game. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 12 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and three steals.

After a poor-shooting first half, the Bucks turned up the defensive pressure and forced eight turnovers in the third quarter as they outscored Brooklyn by 16.

Jarrett Jack had 26 points for the Nets.

Jazz 100, Pelicans 96

In New Orleans, Gordon Hayward scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half as Utah overcame a 14-point, third-quarter deficit to defeat New Orleans.

Derrick Favors scored 18 and Enes Kanter had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Utah, which won its second straight while handing the Pelicans their second consecutive loss.

Eric Gordon tied a career high with seven 3-pointers on eight attempts and finished with 31 points for the Pelicans. Tyreke Evans added 18 points and 10 assists.

New Orleans was unable to overcome the absence of leading scorer and rebounder Anthony Davis, who sprained his right shoulder on Saturday, and Ryan Anderson, who has a sore right elbow.

Gasols' game: Brothers Pau, Marc await NBA All-Star history

NEW YORK (AP)—Marc Gasol can hardly wait for one of the NBA All-Star game's most mundane moments.

"I'm just really excited for the jump ball," he said.

That's because it will be against his big brother.

Teammates with their national team, once traded for each other and sharing a lifetime love of basketball that developed in their grandmother's backyard in Spain, Marc and Pau Gasol will make history as the first brothers to start in the All-Star game.

"That jump ball is going to symbolize a lot of things, different ways to do things with the same kind of goal and what we stand for as players and as men, so that jump ball is going to be unique," Marc said Monday. "It's hard to put into words what that jump ball is going to mean."

Not for those who know the brothers best.

"When you're close to somebody like I am with those two guys, you feel really special," said Knicks guard Jose Calderon, a longtime teammate of the Gasols on the Spanish national team.

"We've been working together and playing together for so many years, so it's like a brother, like family. I think it's really great for Spanish basketball, for Spain, even for the NBA. You've got two brothers starting for two different conferences. I don't know if that is going to happen again in basketball."

Pau, 34, is in his first season with the Chicago Bulls and was elected to start for the Eastern Conference. Marc, who has followed Pau as Memphis' man in the middle, was voted by fans to start for the West.

It's the first time two brothers will start the All-Star game. They are the first siblings to play in the same game since Tom and Dick Van Arsdale in 1970 and '71.

"It's a beautiful thing. We are a lucky family," Pau said during a conference call with his brother.

It's the fifth All-Star appearance for Pau, who was a star from nearly the minute he came to the NBA. He was the 2002 Rookie of the Year and the MVP of the 2006 world basketball championship, and he won two titles with the Lakers after they acquired him from Memphis during the 2007-08 season.

Success for the 30-year-old Marc, whose draft rights were traded from the Lakers to the Grizzlies in the deal, was slower and a little more unexpected—except to Pau.

"I'm just happy to see him do so well and also with his team, with the Grizzlies, a franchise that has also been a big part of my career," Pau said. "Just overall, a lot of pride, a lot of joy to see your brother do so well, and I know he's going to continue to do well."

Time together is rare during the season—especially now that they are in different conferences. So they will enjoy these days in New York, along with parents, wives, kids and other supporters.

And Marc should have plenty of them inside Madison Square Garden. A free agent this summer who could draw interest from the Knicks, he laughed off the idea that he might receive some of the loudest cheers Sunday.

"I think there's going to be many more popular guys than me in that arena, but I don't know how it's going to go," he said. "It's going to be one very unique night and I can't wait to enjoy it."

Trouble hasn't slowed down for NFL in 2015

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Commissioner Roger Goodell declared at the Super Bowl that the NFL made "enormous progress" on social issues after last year's incessant barrage of disturbing developments, led by the Ray Rice domestic violence and Adrian Peterson child abuse crises.

That bombardment hasn't much abated in 2015, with at least eight players arrested, a star suspended, an agent indicted and a Hall of Famer fired.

Also enmeshed in the headlines are Johnny Manziel checking himself into a treatment program and the murder trial of Aaron Hernandez getting under way.

All of this against the backdrop of the league's investigation into whether the Super Bowl champion Patriots surreptitiously provided under-inflated footballs for their AFC championship win.

"It's a discouraging start to the new year," said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. "But my hope is it's an anomaly for 2015."

That will hinge on whether discipline and dishonor—"the players aren't going to want to be mentioned in the same story as Ray Rice or Adrian Peterson"—serve as deterrents to further transgressions, he said.

The players' union maintains it's not a one-way street, noting that several instances of owner misconduct went unpunished last year, raising questions about the congruity of Goodell's discipline. The union cited the cases of the Vikings' Ziggy Wilf, the Cowboys' Jerry Jones and the Browns' Jimmy Haslam.

"Anytime there are off-field incidents by players, we are disappointed, but we need to put things in some perspective," NFLPA president Eric Winston said. "These incidents are exceptions and not reflective of our membership. This union is focused on supporting players, educating players, fighting for due process and fairness. We are not opposed to discipline as we believe everyone should be held accountable for their actions, but there is so much attention on discipline that the other areas tend to get ignored in the public. We will not ignore them."

Former NFL coach Tony Dungy suggested the players' alleged misdeeds are reflective of society at large, commonplace when young players go from strict schedules to offseason freedom.

AP

In this Jan. 30, 2015, file photo, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell participates in a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game in Phoenix.

"It's always a dangerous time and it kind of happens every year," Dungy said. "If you just read the local paper every day you're going to read about DUIs, speeding tickets, incidents at nightclubs. But it wouldn't be anybody's name you would recognize."

Not so when it's an NFL player.

"The one thing that we have to be careful about is to think it's all of a sudden gotten worse or these guys are different," Dungy said. "I think we can get lost in `Oh yeah, we had 10 or 12 incidents and forget that the other 1,790 guys are doing quite well."

Troy Vincent, NFL executive vice president for football operations, said: "Our young men are presented with the greatest platform in the world and how they carry that responsibility determines public perception. Our efforts are focused every day on raising the standard of excellence. We take the approach of shared responsibility and personal accountability in that we have resources and mentors in place to assist these young men where they are challenged. It is their responsibility to utilize them.

"We continue to work each day to bring out the best in all who are associated with the game of football."

A steady stream of arrests and charges since Jan. 1 include:

- Colts linebackers Josh McNary (rape), D'Qwell Jackson (assault) and Andrew Jackson (drunken driving);
- Packers defensive tackle Letroy Guion (drugs);
- Saints pass rusher Junior Galette (assault);
- Jets running back Chris Johnson (weapons);
- Bears cornerback Tim Jennings (drunken driving).

In Kansas, police are investigating a domestic abuse claim against Cowboys running back Joseph Randle made by an ex-girlfriend a day after his arrest at a Kansas hotel on a drug charge that's been dropped. The probe continues.

Browns receiver Josh Gordon was suspended for violating the league's substance-abuse policy. Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell received 15 months' probation in a first-offender's program following his August arrest on marijuana charges. Cardinals running back Jonathan Dwyer pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and was placed on probation in a case stemming from alleged assaults on his wife last year.

And Warren Sapp was fired as an NFL Network analyst after his arrest on suspicion of soliciting a prostitute and allegedly assaulting two women.

Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy faces possible NFL discipline even though prosecutors Monday dismissed domestic violence charges against him after the accuser couldn't be found.

Finally, there's the specter of Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston going No. 1 in the draft despite a history of questionable off-field behavior.

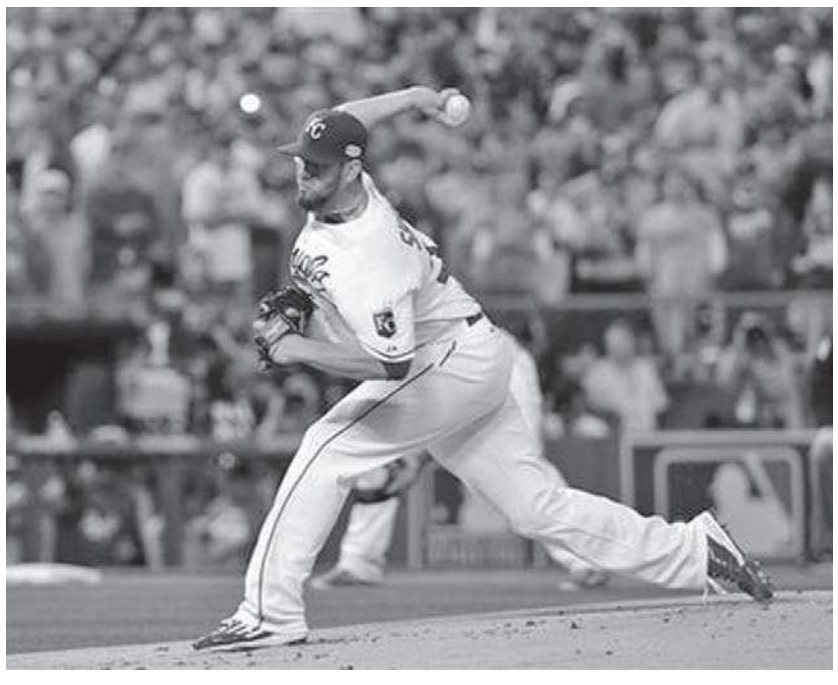
Dungy said he didn't think most teams would place a higher priority this year on character given all that's transpired, insisting, "Guys with talent are always going to have a place to play."

James Shields and Padres agree to $75M, 4-year deal

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Right-hander James Shields, who helped Kansas City reach the World Series last season, has agreed to a $75 million, four-year contract with the San Diego Padres.

The deal includes an option for 2019 and is subject to the successful completion of a physical, which likely to take place Tuesday.

Shields is the latest addition by first-year general manager A.J. Preller, who in December added sluggers Matt Kemp, Justin Upton and Wil Myers, as well as Derek Norris and Will Middlebrooks.



In this Oct. 21, 2014, file photo, Kansas City Royals pitcher James Shields throws during the first inning of Game 1 of baseball's World Series against the San Francisco Giants in Kansas City, Mo.

AP

Shields was traded from Tampa Bay to Kansas City two years ago in a deal in which Myers, then the Royals' top prospect, was acquired by the Rays.

Shields was 14-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season and declined a $15.3 million qualifying offer from the Royals. He lost both of his World Series starts, outdueled each time by Madison Bumgarner.

By signing Shields, the Padres lose their first-round pick, 13th overall, in June's amateur draft. The Royals get an extra pick after the first round.

Shields projects to lead a rotation that also includes Tyson Ross, Andrew Cashner and Ian Kennedy. Several players will compete for the No. 5 spot during spring training.

An All-Star in 2011, Shields is 114-90 with a 3.72 ERA in nine seasons.

SIDEBAR

NFL formalizes panel to assess Los Angeles stadium plans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has established an internal committee to review stadium options in Los Angeles and coordinate any possible move to Southern California, according to a league memo obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

Goodell's action comes about a month after a development group that includes a company controlled by St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke announced plans to build an 80,000-seat stadium in the Los Angeles suburbs. The proposal that envisions a stadium rising on the site of a former horse track in Inglewood once again raises the possibility that Los Angeles could get another NFL team after a two-decade drought.

The memo emphasizes that the league, not a single team, controls when and where a move can take place. Among its duties, the Committee on Los Angeles Opportunities is charged with confirming that any steps taken in Los Angeles are consistent with the NFL's constitution and policies.

Any decision to bring an NFL team to Southern California would require multiple steps and approvals from NFL owners, which can only be granted by a three-fourths vote of the teams. Those decisions include selection of a stadium site, approval of stadium lease and financing arrangements and relocation terms.

A key role of the committee is to preserve the voting rights of the clubs on each issue.

The memo was first reported by the Los Angeles Times.

The Inglewood plan is the latest in a string of stadium proposals in the Los Angeles area since the 1994 exit of the Rams and Raiders from Southern California.

The memo does not refer to the Rams, the San Diego Chargers or the Oakland Raiders, which have been considering a move.

The committee formalizes a panel of owners that had been advising the league on Los Angeles in the last year, which includes John Mara of the New York Giants, Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs, Bob McNair of the Houston Texans, Jerry Richardson of the Carolina Panthers, Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots and Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Kroenke Group has entered a joint venture with Stockbridge Capital Group, which had been developing a 238-acre tract of homes, parks and office space at the former Hollywood Park track, on the edge of Los Angeles. Kroenke's company owns an adjacent 60 acres, which would be merged into the overall development. The expanded project would include a stadium, a separate 6,000-seat performance venue and parking.

3 boost bid in boys U14 singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last year's finalist Robbie Schorr and two others made it to the semifinals of the boys U14 singles event of the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic after winning their respective matches over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Schorr, who lost to Luther Lizama in last year's division title match, 6-8, boosted his chances for a return trip to the finals after blanking A.J. Hudkins, 6-0, 6-0, Schorr is the top-seeded player in the 11-netter field and drew a bye in the first round of the upper half of the bracket. Hudkins earned the right to face Schorr in the quarterfinals after sweeping Jeffrey Seo, 6-1, 6-4.

Schorr will meet in the finals the winner of the Ken Song-Joshua Abragan quarterfinal showdown. Song also got a bye in the first round, while Abragan advanced following a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Hyun Woo Chin.

In the lower half of the bracket, Tony Kim and Vincent Tudela notched the two semis tickets.

Kim, who fell to Lizama in the semifinals last year, gained his second straight semis appearance in the boys U14 singles after outclassing Haruya Eda, 6-1, 6-1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Anthony Gregoire, seen here serving in a mixed-up doubles event in last Saturday's 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts, is also playing in the boys U10 singles.

Tudela also needed only two sets to thwart Steven Goodwin in the quarterfinals, 6-2, 6-1, and arrange a semis date with Kim. Before bowing to Tudela, Goodwin came off an easy 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Allan Lee.

The semis matches in the boys U14 singles and other divisions will be played this weekend.

Meanwhile, Daniel Kang and Gary Ramsey booked the first win in their respective age groups.

Kang is entered in the boys U10 singles and downed Richard Steele, 6-3. The division has a round-robin format with Anthony Gregoire and Seung Jin Baek completing the short field.

The men's 40-and-over singles has the same format with Ramsey barging into the win column following his 6-2, 7-5 win over Richard's father, Randy. Others competing in the division are Eric Abragan and Nicky Nichols.

Atalig still ahead; all golfers move to next round

J.J. Atalig failed to top the third of the five-game tryouts for the Pacific Games-bound CNMI Men's National Golf Team but the veteran par-buster is still the frontrunner in clinching one of the four spots.

Atalig shot an 80 to finish second behind Harry Nakamura's 74 in last Saturday's third and last playdate at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

In the race to the Top 4 national team berths, Atalig is still ahead, followed by Xerxes Camacho, Eddie Peter, Harry Nakamura, and Louie Tilipao.

Tryout organizer Peter said the fourth and fifth games would be played at Kingfisher Golflinks on Feb. 14 and 21. Registration starts at 10am and tee time is set at 11am.

Peter added that all golfers who joined the first three games of the tryouts will move on to the next round where they will play another five straight Saturdays starting on Feb. 28.

Scores made in the five games played in the first round will not be carried over. Each tryout day plays 18 holes.

The four best golfers and one alternate after the last five rounds will comprise the CNMI Men's National Golf Team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games set in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from July 4 to 18.

Peter is again inviting all local golfers to join them on Saturday at Kingfisher to support the CNMI Men's National Golf Team.

Participants in the last two rounds will only pay the green fee and an additional $20 for Team CNMI's fund to the Pacific Games.

Peter is hoping to form a strong team that will contend for the 12 medals at stake in the golf event of the Pacific Games, which will be held at the Royal Port Moresby Golf Club in the National Capital District

For more information on the open tryouts, call Peter at 288-7482 or 788-7664. ***(Jon Perez)***

Mayweather to Pacquiao: 'We have to make this fight happen'

WBC and WBA welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather told Manny Pacquiao in a video posted to Instagram that he wants to get a fight done before their careers are over.

Top Rank boxing promoter Bob Arum has said that the failure to get the fight done is Mayweather's fault, with Mayweather saying that he is not dealing with Arum.

"Before we leave this sport, of course, we have to make this fight happen," Mayweather said in the video.

Arum told the Associated Press last week that HBO, which Pacquiao is contracted to, and Showtime, who shows Mayweather's fight, have agreed on broadcasting the fight. Showtime executives have denied that claim.

Arum also claimed that revenue for the fight had been agreed upon, with a 60-40 split in money going in favor of Mayweather, who could make upwards of $120 million for the proposed May 2 fight.

"I'm thinking that the fight will happen, so hopefully … within one week, though, we can hear from them and fix the fight," Pacquiao said on "Fox News Sunday."

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

ley's and Paire Football Club had enough players to suit up for their debut matches and the former proved to have a deeper roster as seen in its 8-0 demolition of the latter.

Jeraldine Castillo started things out for Shirley's with her back-to-back goals in the first half, while five of his teammates also made it to the board. Diana Maniacop chipped in two goals, while Pearl Jan Santiago, Gabrielle Race, Alexa Vergara, and Negahr Rastguiy contributed one apiece.

Meanwhile, the other game in the opening of the Women's M-League ended in a draw with Tan Holdings FC and MP United FC scoring three goals each.

Kyla Ito saved MP United from an opening day loss after hitting the equalizer in the 73rd minute.

Earlier in the first half, Chloe Salvosa knocked in two straight goals in a span of five minutes (53rd and 58th) to put Tan Holdings on top, 3-2, after facing a 1-2 deficit at halftime. Salvosa also drilled Tan Holdings' lone goal in the opening frame for the first hat-trick of the season. Michelle Ann Masga and Jayda Mendoza scored for MP United in the first half with the former finding the back of the net in the ninth minute and the latter also hitting her target 13 minutes later.

Meanwhile, Kanoa Football Club was scheduled to play its first game of the season last night against Independents FC, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

There will be no games this Saturday and action will resume on Feb. 17 with Paire taking on Tan Holdings at 7:15pm.

YANKEES

From Page 28

But the Yankees' dreaded batting lineup of designated hitter Chris Camacho, Gary Cruz, Jerome Delos Santos, Ben Jones, and John Tudela played the spoilers' role in those defensive efforts that could have been the Falcons' highlight plays if they had won.

Camacho (1-for-3) had two runs and an RBI, while Cruz went 2-for-2 with an RBI, and Delos Santos batted 2-for-4 and scored twice in the game.

Jones had a two-RBI triple in a four-run third inning for the Yankees where they grabbed the lead. Tudela also had a run and RBI in 2-for-4 batting.

Peter Lieto's ejection in the bottom of the fourth also did not help the Falcons' cause as the SBL strikeout leader was having a steady performance on the mound but lost his cool and was thrown out by base umpire Mabel Ngirngemelas.

Lieto only lasted for two innings, giving up two earned runs on two hits with three strikeouts and two walks. Ton Benavente started for the Falcons and allowed the Yankees to four runs, two earned, on four hits with two walks.

Aaron Benavente replaced Lieto and held the Yankees to one earned run on one hit in three innings. Jess Celis closed out for the Falcons giving up an earned run on two hits with one walk.

Yankees relief pitcher Kevin Kapileo and closer Franco Flores shut down the Falcons. Manny Cabrera pitched 3.1 innings in start allowing five runs, two earned, on four hits, while striking out two and walking two.

Kapileo pitched 4.2 shutout innings in relief giving up four hits while walking three and fanning four. Flores fanned two and forced another batter to fly out to complete the Yankees' win.

ARMATECH

From Page 28

targets early to give the team a good start, while Bammy's had a lackluster offense.

Armatech was already ahead by double digits when some of its players arrived, including Ferdie Tobias, who provided the squad more scoring options. He had 5 quick points late in the first period, which ended with Armatech way ahead, 34-10.

Bammy's faced a big deficit after the opening canto, as it had no player hitting more than a field goal in the first 10 minutes of play. It never recovered, as the trio of Montano, Abuy, and Tobias kept torching the hoops in the remaining three periods.

The three Armatech players combined for 72 points, just 13 short of the output of the entire Bammy's crew. Tobias had a game-high 30 points, while Abuy and Montano chipped in 24 and 18, respectively.

The same three players led Armatech's rout of Boomer with Tobias tallying 25, Montano adding 19, and Abuy logging 17.

The trio's consistent shooting foiled Boomers' comeback bid, as Armatech saw its once 14-point lead early in the second half, 33-19, trimmed down to 3 at the break, 47-44. Mico Usi kept Boomers in the match in the first half after drilling 13 of his 22 points in the second quarter.

However, that was the closest that Boomers could get, as Armatech turned on the heat in the third, holding the former scoreless in the first four minutes and change of that period. The Boomers' drought ended at the 5:26 mark when Art Salazar banked a shot, however the damage had already been done, as Armetch went on a pivotal 21-2 run to establish its biggest lead, 68-46.

It was cruise control from thereon for Armatech, as Bammy's continued firing blanks. Bammy's was so off offensively in the second half that midway in the final canto it missed at least seven consecutive shots in the paint and muffed the last four attempts from downtown in the closing seconds of the match.

SATURDAY

Armatech 106 – Tobias 30, Abuy 24, Montano 18, Tolentino 12, Gatdula 6, Poquiz 6, Malasarte 2, Manalili 2.

Bammy's 85 – Ocampo 20, J. Tabora 14, Alipio 11, Catalla 10, Zapata 9, De Guzman 7, Sampang 6, Enriquez 3.

Scoring by quarters: 34-10, 58-31, 78-62, 106-85.

MONDAY

Armatech 95 – Tobias 25, Montano 19, Abuy 17, Malasarte 9, Poquiz 8, Manalili 8, Bartolo 6.

Boomers 75 – Usi 22, Pablo 18, Salazar 10, Joson 7, Dela Cruz 6, Echavez 4, Culala 4, Buniag 2, Anasan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-19, 47-44, 72-56, 95-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	35	17	.673	—
Brooklyn	21	30	.412	13½
Boston	19	31	.380	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	23½
New York	10	42	.192	25

Southeast Division

Atlanta	43	10	.811	—
Washington	33	20	.623	10
Charlotte	22	29	.431	20
Miami	22	29	.431	20
Orlando	16	39	.291	28

Central Division

Chicago	32	20	.615	—
Cleveland	32	21	.604	½
Milwaukee	29	23	.558	3
Detroit	20	32	.385	12
Indiana	20	33	.377	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	38	13	.745	—
Houston	35	16	.686	3
Dallas	35	19	.648	4½
San Antonio	33	19	.635	5½
New Orleans	27	25	.519	11½

Northwest Division

Portland	35	17	.673	—
Oklahoma City	27	25	.519	8
Denver	19	33	.365	16
Utah	19	33	.365	16
Minnesota	11	41	.212	24

Pacific Division

Golden State	41	9	.820	—
L.A. Clippers	34	19	.642	8½
Phoenix	29	24	.547	13½
Sacramento	18	32	.360	23
L.A. Lakers	13	38	.255	28½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local bar volunteers to house NMI Hall of Famers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Photos of the current and future members of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame will soon grace the walls of Naked Fish Bar and Grill in Susupe.

A local family-owned bar would soon be housing the portraits of the 17 members of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame and other memorabilia that has been a significant part of the Commonwealth's various sports programs.

Naked Fish Bar and Grill is planning to have one wall inside the establishment dedicated to posting the pictures of these sports heroes.

Restaurant general manager Patrick C. Guerrero said he and his brother Joe Guerrero, who owns the bar along with his wife, first thought of an idea of having photos of the winning anglers that join various events of the Saipan Fisherman's Association and their prized catch.

"I've spoken to SFA since this is Naked Fish, but you don't see a lot of fish here," said Guerrero with a laugh. "They don't really have a home. They also have a perpetual trophy but it is not usually seen unless you work at the Marianas Visitors Authority."

He added that he and Joe thought it would be cool to see photos of past winners of the tournament with the winning catch, and other artworks that celebrate sport fishing hanging inside the walls of their establishment.

"Sometimes my brother and I just talk and exchange ideas. That's why we came up with the idea of having SFA items here. But we thought about it, why not extend it to local sports. The first thing that entered our minds was the CNMI Sports Hall of Famers."

Guerrero said he decided to get in touch with Northern Marianas Sports Association president Mike White to discuss the idea and to know who are the other people that want to work with them with the project.

He added that seeing CNMI Sports Hall of Fame members would be an inspiration to the next generation of athletes to persevere and train harder in order to become successful in their chosen field.

"We just want to the community to see these sports greats that are maybe their brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts or uncles, and remember what they have done to the community," said Guerrero.

"The Hall of Fame wall will be prominent so everyone can see the members of the CNMI Hall of Fame. We felt that we can connect more to the community if they see the photos of our local sports heroes."

Seventeen people have already been enshrined into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame since it was created in 2003 through House Bill 13-113 co-authored by Reps. Daniel O. Quitugua, Ramon A. Tebuteb, and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

Bill and Jean Sakovich, Tony Rogolifoi, Mike Villlagomez, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Kurt Barnes, Cecilia Lisua, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, Frank Castro, Jeff Race, Tino Olopai, Jess Wabol, and posthumous awardee Irene Alpet are the current members of the CNMI Hall of Fame.

T Galleria named official sponsor of Saipan Sportsfest

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Jomari Pico, PSM beauty; Vicente Babauta, AGM operations; Eric Tydingco, Saipan Sportsfest race director; Marian Aldan-Pierce, DFS Saipan president; Marie Sablan, DFS promotions specialist, Esther Ada, DFS human resources manager; Xiu Hocog, SA Cartier; and Ray Camacho, DFS IT manager, pose for a group photo after T Galleria agreed to be the official sponsor of Saipan Sportsfest.

T Galleria has officially signed on to be an official sponsor of 2015 Saipan Sportsfest, according to race director Eric Tydingco.

"T Galleria has always been an avid supporter of MVA and the Saipan Sportsfest," said Tydingco. "We are excited to continue this partnership in 2015, and give both local and visiting athletes a great event to look forward to again this year."

Saipan Sportsfest is slated to begin on March 22 with the 26th Annual Tagaman Triathlon, and will continue on March 28 with the XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"The entire team at T Galleria is excited to be an official sponsor of the 2015 Sportsfest, and we look forward to supporting our local participants, as well as welcoming the visiting athletes to Saipan with open arms," said Marian Aldan-Pierce, T Galleria/DFS Saipan president. "With Tagaman in its 26th year, and XTERRA in its 14th, we are proud to be part of the excitement once again!"

T Galleria has been an active part of the CNMI community for the past 40 years, and continues its efforts to build Saipan as a sought-after destination for tourists from Asia, Australia, Europe, and beyond.

Online registration for the Tagaman Triathlon and the XTERRA Saipan Championship is available at saipansportsfest.com. For more information on Saipan Sportsfest, contact Kelli Wedd, PIVOT marketing director at meet@pivot24.com. ***(PR)***

Yankees' Cruz leads SBL in batting

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gary Cruz lead two other Saipan Stevedore Yankees that finished in the Top 10 in batting leaders in Week 5 of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League season.

Cruz is currently batting .529 for the Yankees, who has won their last two games to improve to 3-1. He also had six RBIs to join the Brewers' Pat Alepuyo at second place behind the eight of Yankees teammate Ben Jones.

The Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos placed sixth with .444, while Peter Tomokane came in eighth with .385, which is also Alepuyo's average.

Davie Matagolai is in second with .500 for the struggling Jets followed by the North Starz's Chad Atalig (.462). The Brewers' Jun Rabauliman and Falcons' Henry Iguel are tied at fourth to fifth spots wit .455.

Anthony Tenorio (Fielders, .429); Peter Lieto (Falcons, .364); and Cedric Ada (Fielders, .353) came in seventh, 10th, and 11th places, respectively.

Roy Celis (Brewers), Verlance Secharmidal (Fielders), Byron Kaipat (Brewers), and Alex Benavente (Falcons) were the four players tied from 13th to 16th spots with .333.

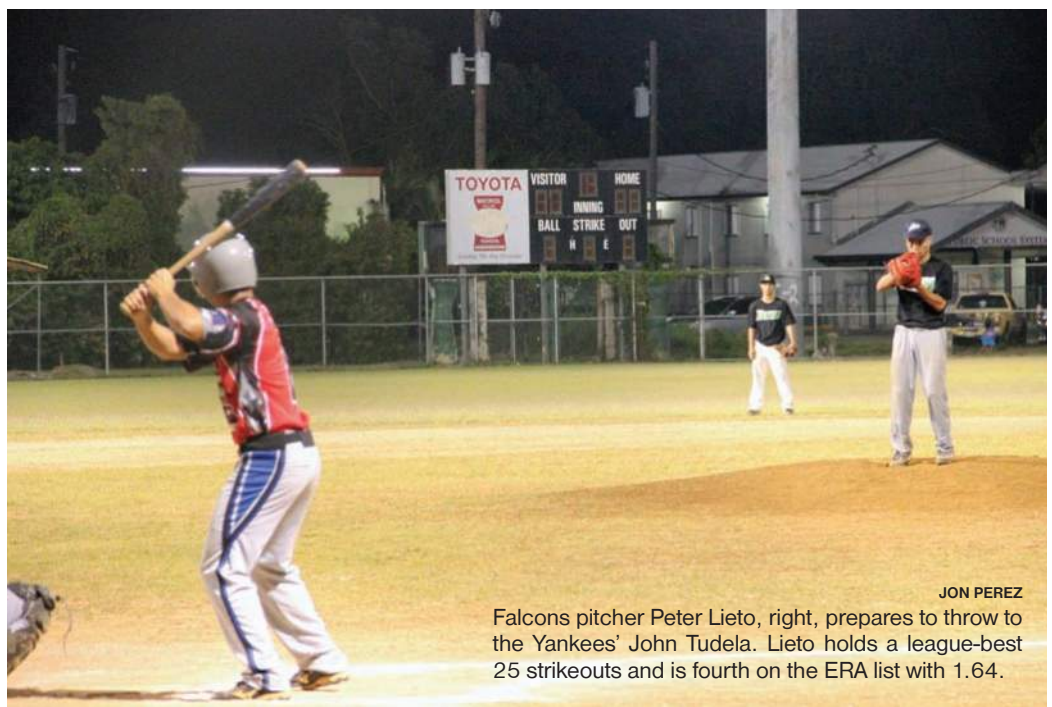
Delos Santos and the North Starz's Ricardo Dela Cruz have so far scored the most runs with eight each, while the Yankees' Jones, who hit a homerun in a their 17-5 demolition of the North Starz on Jan. 14, has seven.

Alepuyo and Brewers teammate Manny Sablan and the Fielders' Ricardo Dela Cruz had two doubles apiece.

The Falcons' Peter Lieto, who is fourth on the ERA list with 1.64, leads the league in strikeouts with 25 followed by the Jets' Mike Muna's 23 and the Brewers' Vince Cepeda's 19.

Cepeda, the Falcons' A.J. Lizama, and the Yankees' Franco Flores all have zero ERAs.

Kevin Villamgomez (Fielders, 1,69); Aaron Benavente (Falcons, 1.80); Jonathan Tenorio (North Starz, 1.93); Dave Jones (Falcons, 2.00), Muna (Jets, 2.08), and Peter Tenorio (Yankees, 2.25) complete the ERA list.



JON PEREZ
Falcons pitcher Peter Lieto, right, prepares to throw to the Yankees' John Tudela. Lieto holds a league-best 25 strikeouts and is fourth on the ERA list with 1.64.

Popovich earns win No. 1,000 as Spurs get past Pacers, 95-93

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Local bar volunteers to house NMI Hall of Famers

PAGE 27

Shirley's FC, Matansa prevail in opener

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Kyla Ito beats a Tan Holdings FC player for possession during the first half of their game in the Women's M-League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The women's division of the M-League kicked off its spring season last Saturday with Shirley's Football Club and Matansa Football Club downing separate foes at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Matansa started the hostilities in the women's competition and was awarded a 3-0 win via default after Independents Football Club failed to field enough players for its opening game. Players available from the opposing squads then settled for a scrimmage with Matansa still winning after drawing goals from Bernadette Horey and Katrina Castro.

Joining Horey and Castro on Matansa's roster are Pinyarat Shankweiler, Maile Adrich, Bunruang Brasuell, Cristy Villaflor, Jumlonh Inno Horey, Elna Curate, Roxe Lazaro, Carla Ballesteros, Sabrina Santos, Agnes Mongami, Ratree Ditwiset, Tawny Barcinas, Pratoon Stoffer, Justice Norman, and Chrishia and Yokomaria Leon Guerrero.

Listed on IFC's lineup are Sarah and Terra Allen, Melisa and Chutima Borja, Laurea Briosos, Mula Capilitan, Shawn Davis, Erica Dela Rosa, Farleen Esmundo, Temary and Vanessa Gramlich, Lina Manalili, Cleo Nening, and Jhie Vallo.

In the third game, both Shir-

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

Yankees snap Falcons' win streak

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Not even a rare defensive gem could save the Falcons as the 2007 Saipan Baseball League champions dropped an 8-5 decision against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees last Monday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios ballfield.

It was the Yankees' second straight win, while ending the Falcons' three-game romp to tie their victims at 3-1 behind the immaculate 3-0 slate of the defending champions GSM Brewers.

JON PEREZ
Falcons coach Ned Norita, second right, clarifies a call made by umpire Mabel Ngirngemelas, while manager Doru Camacho and several players listen during their Saipan Baseball League game against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees last Monday night at the Francisco M. "Tank Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Falcons' defense provided the highlight play of the game—a triple play—in the seventh inning where they trailed the Yankees, 6-5.

Falcons relief pitcher Aaron Benavente forced Brian Camacho to line drive to shortstop A.J. Lizama, who stepped on second and made the throw to first baseman Nunu Kapileo for the quick 1-2-3 inning. The Falcons also had a double play in the second.

See YANKEES on Page 26

Back-to-back for Armatech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Armatech's guns were blazing in its two straight games in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League, as it routed its opponents.

Armatech was first pitted against Bammy's Restaurant and coasted to a 106-85 win last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, while last Monday the former also waltzed past Boomers, 95-75.

With the back-to-back victories, Armatech moved up to solo second place in the team standings behind the unbeaten Blue Haus (4-0), while Boomers remained winless in three games and Bammy's fell to a 1-2 slate.

Bammy's failed to make a follow-up of its 82-76 win over KB Hite as it did not capitalize on a depleted Armatech crew right in the first quarter. Armatech had only six players available at the beginning of the game, but shooters James Abuy and Bernard Montano found their

See ARMATECH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Bong Malasarte fakes off the defense of Boomers' Bobby Dela Cruz, left, while two other Boomers defenders look on during the second quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.